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Palestinian Affairs

PLO Specifications for Dialogue With Israel

Agrees To 'Modify' Stance

JN3001211690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Text] The PLO has agreed to modify its position on Palestinian representation in the dialogue with Israel. Certain specifications of the members of the Palestinian delegation, which will be named by the PLO, can be agreed upon. These flexible specifications, which were accepted by the United States and Egypt, revolve around the following: PLO Executive Committee members must not participate in the first stages of the dialogue; members of the Palestinian delegation must not be among those involved in military operations outside the occupied territories; and they must not be from those recently deported. This was stressed to us by a high-ranking Palestinian official.

This source said a gradual opening is taking place in the deadlocked efforts to hold a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. The source stressed that the Palestinian leadership will meet in Tunis under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat in the next few hours to discuss the latest political developments in the wake of 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, Shim'on Peres' visit to Egypt, and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's visit to Washington.

The source said he expected the prospects for holding the three-way meeting among the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel, and the United States to increase. The meeting is expected to take place in a European capital, rather than in Washington, as had been previously decided.

No 'Concessions' Made

JN0102091690 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Feb 90 pp 1, 20

[By Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, has affirmed that the PLO's stance on the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue has not changed. The PLO stance, he added, is inspired by the Central Council's decisions which maintain that participation in this dialogue will be through a Palestinian delegation formed and announced by the PLO from inside and outside [the occupied territories].

Responding to what has been circulating about concessions made by the PLO regarding the Palestinian delegation to the proposed dialogue, and what is said about the PLO relinquishing some of its conditions regarding its delegation to the dialogue with Israel, 'Abd-Rabbuh asserted that the PLO is holding fast to its right to name and announce the Palestinian delegation, and that there will be no dialogue without the PLO's participation.

The Palestinian official added that this topic is being subjected to many maneuvers by the U.S. side, and some attempts to encroach upon the oneness of the Palestinian representation through the PLO. As a result, no real progress has been achieved so far.

'Abd-Rabbuh added, in a statement to AL-DUSTUR, that progress is contingent upon a change in the U.S. position in the direction we have talked about. They know quite well that there will be no dialogue without the PLO's participation, and this is the stance which the Unified National Command of the Intifadah has emphasized in its recent call.

Another Palestinian official told AL-DUSTUR that these maneuvers are not new, and that attempts are being carried out now to drive the PLO into a "labyrinth" of talk on the specifications of the Palestinian delegation. He added that everything is negotiable. However, the PLO insists on forming and announcing the Palestinian delegation. Moreover, the PLO Executive Committee will meet in Tunis today to hold lengthy deliberations on this topic. The Palestinian official mentioned some of the specifications which were circulating, among them that the delegation should not include Executive Committee members or intifadah deportees, and that members should not be among those who carried out military operations outside the occupied territories. The Palestinian official asserted that these are not cardinal issues, and that they were not among the PLO's conditions for the proposed dialogue.

'Abd-Rabbuh asserted that the PLO's conditions are naming and announcing its delegation; that the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue should lead to the holding of an international conference; and that the agenda should be open and not limited to the Israeli plan on holding elections in the occupied territories.

'Abd-Rabbuh did not find the U.S. and Israeli stands on the PLO's conditions strange. He said further that up to now the basic issue is that the Israeli stance, supported greatly by the U.S., is based on an attempt, not to hold a dialogue, but to isolate the PLO and create a rift between the Palestinian ranks inside and outside, under the slogan of talking about a dialogue.

He emphasized that this dialogue will only be held on equal bases, foremost among which is that the Palestinian delegation be chosen by the PLO. Neither the

Israeli Government nor any other party will choose it, 'Abd-Rabbuh concluded.

'Impossible' Conditions Viewed

JN2201210090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers, concerning the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, how can some imagine it possible for the PLO to abandon its legitimate right to the formation and declaration of the Palestinian delegation? How can the PLO possibly give up its objective and just demand that the agenda of the proposed dialogue be open to all issues that would help lay the foundations of a genuine and just peace in the Middle East? To even think of this is to cancel the essence of the idea of the dialogue. It is not sensible to ask the PLO to eliminate itself and to cancel its role. Nor it is possible for the PLO to leave its Israeli enemy free to appoint the Palestinian delegation. But what is extreme nonsense is for this delegation—formed, appointed, and nominated by Israel's Shamir—to ratify Shamir's plan—the plan that perpetuates Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories under the slogan of self-rule.

There is cause to scorn this mad vision. But, after all, is this not what the mad, arrogant, and insane Shamir is thinking of? What is even worse is that this Israeli claptrap should be taken seriously outside the Israeli circle; indeed, be listed as a priority that must be discussed in Washington, not as an Israeli crime against the hopes of peace, but as a necessary issue for progress in the peace process.

It is true that the PLO opens its ears to the various views and ideas expressed here and there for the sake of peace in the Middle East. It is true that it is eager not to turn its back on discussions that would surmount obstacles to a genuine Middle East peace. But it is absolutely untrue to explain this responsible PLO position toward peace as Palestinian readiness, no matter how slight, to respond to any of Israel's impossible conditions concerning the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. The PLO has provided a full, historic opportunity for achieving a just and honorable peace to all parties to the Middle East conflict. It provided this opportunity from a position of strength [passage indistinct]. Without the PLO's historic offer for regional peace in the Middle East and for international peace efforts, things will go in the reverse direction; namely, further tension and escalation in the region. This is exactly what the Israeli occupation leaders are providing through their daily crimes against world efforts toward Middle East peace, including their mad conditions for the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. Everyone, near and far, should bear responsibility toward this Israeli arrogance.

'Arafat Threatens PNC Meeting, Resignation

BK3101103590 Lahore THE NATION in English 31 Jan 90 pp 1,3

["Exclusive" interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by THE NATION correspondent Mushahid Hussain, in Tunis on January 23]

[Text] Islamabad—Two years after the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories of West Bank and Gaza began their momentous Intifidah, Yasir 'Arafat has said that despite "pressure", the Intifidah "will continue till the end of the Israeli occupation, until we are able to raise our flag on Jerusalem, with Al-Quds al-Sharif as our capital."

He also threatened to "tender my resignation" as Chairman of the PLO since "there are limits to our patience because the Palestinians were putting up a peaceful resistance in the face of Israeli brutality. 'Arafat made these remarks in the course of an exclusive interview in Tunis on January 23 which was part of a series of three meetings spanning four and a half hours during the five days. While responding to a question that the struggle of the Kashmiris in India-held Kashmir was inspired by Intifidah, Yasir 'Arafat smilingly remarked, "I am not following this point (Kashmir). You are near there."

Yasir 'Arafat who wears three "hats" as president of the state of Palestine, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and commander-in-chief of the Palestine National Army, was very critical of the American role and accused the U.S. of double standards since it hails human rights in Prague and Berlin while maintaining silence on Palestine. He added: "Don't you see, the Americans want the Russians to peacefully let go of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, but when it comes to Azerbaijan they support the use of force."

The meetings took place in his various safehouses in Tunis that serve as his temporary residence-cum-office since he does not sleep at the same place every night. He was flanked by a citation "Allah" and Gen De Gaulle's Declaration of Independence of France during the war.

Dressed in his khaki uniform with a pistol strapped around his waist with six bullets prominently on display, 'Arafat's 60 years do not show although the "Arafat shadow' (unshaven look) is visibly greying. He keeps fit through jogging 'whenever I can for 30-40 minutes every day', otherwise he uses the exercise bicycle. His physical and mental agility was reflected throughout the meetings with his sharp bright eyes, animated conversation, expressions changing and hands moving swiftly to reinforce any point that he would make.

He answered questions while signing papers, occasionally looking at the television screen (especially when clips of Azerbaijan were shown) and giving instructions to aides. Two of his key political advisers, Abu-Khalid on Islamic affairs and Bassam Abu-Sharif on the media, were present during the interview.

Excerpts from the interview:

Q. Although the Intifidah is over two years old, some concerns are being voiced, particularly whether you are losing control over its direction and that you have not been able to match the political success of the Intifidah on the ground with diplomatic breakthroughs?

A. First of all, the PLO is in full control of all developments inside the occupied territories. At the same time, I should add there are pressures being exerted on the Palestinian leadership. The main reason for these pressures is that the Israeli-organised terrorism against our people has increased. So far, in the Intifidah, we have had 1036 martyrs, 56,000 injured including 6500 disabled by these injuries and around 5,500 cases of miscarriage due to excesive use of toxic gas and beatings by the Israeli occupation troops.

Ninety-six thousand of our people have been detained in concentration camps. Therefore, due to all these oppression on our people, we are under pressure from our people to use arms against the occupation forces and against the armed settlers, to defend ourselves. And till now, there are our clear instructions not to use weapons in the Intifidah. But there are limits to our patience and if I don't find any use, I will call an emergency meeting of the Palestine National Council [PNC] to put them in the picture and even tender my resignation. It would be because I respect my people, I respect myself.

As for peace efforts, it is very clear that the U.S. is behind the rejectionist stand of the Israeli Government and the U.S. supports Israel without limitation, financially, economically, politically, diplomatically and last year, they used the veto in the United Nations six times to protect Israeli crimes. It is very important for everybody to know that it is only because the Americans support and aid Israel, that the Israelis are able to continue their crimes and their occupation of our territories.

The Americans have increased aid to Israel, lately they have given Israel 150 million dollar to develop a surface-to-surface missile for use against Arabs and against the Muslims. You know, what is the meaning of this statement of Israel that its "military arm extends from Karachi to Islamabad to the heart of Africa."

Q. The so-called diplomatic initiatives after the Intifidah under Mubarak's 10 points, Baker's 5 points all seem to have one thing in common: they exclude you and the PLO?

A. Not only the Palestinians. Due to the biased approach of the American Administration, they are excluding completely all other peace initiatives including those of the Arab League, Non-Aligned Movement, Islamic Conference, EEC, socialist countries. It is because of the disciples of Kissinger, who are scattered all over the American Administration.

Q. Then what is the future of the Baker Plan. Is it dead in your view?

A. You have to ask Baker for that. Baker says he wants to solve the Palestinian issue, but it seems he wants to implement Shamir's plan.

Q. How do you compare the attitude of Bush, in his first year, with Reagan in their attitude towards PLO?

A. The only positive points of the Bush administration regarding Palestine are the statements of President Bush calling for "an end to the Israeli occupation" and Baker that "Israel has to forget greater Israel". But nothing is happening on the ground, there is no implementation of what they said. They are giving Shamir time to fulfil his promise to liquidate the Intifidah.

Q. Thus, in hindsight, would you say it was a political mistake to play your trump card, the recognition of Israel, so soon?

A. We have a strategy for peace and I started it in 1974 at the UN when I said I have an olive branch in one hand and gun in the other. The initiative I launched is clearly geared to holding of an international conference. It is no more only a Palestinian initiative, it is supported by the rest of the world. It is a strategy for peace, not a wrong gamble.

Q. Some feel, in the short term, events in Eastern Europe might go against Palestine, diverting attention from our struggle and strengthening Israel diplomatically?

A. It's not true that what happened in East Europe will go against Palestinians in the short or long term. What happened in East Europe is actually following the example set by the Palestinians a year earlier through the Intifadah and I saw a majority of people on television screens demonstrating in Eastern Europe, raising their hands in the victory sign, shouting "Intifadah, Intifadah". We believe that the change created by the popular movement in the Eastern Europe will support the popular movement seeking freedom in Palestine. This massive zeal for democracy and freedom is the main trend of this era and it will reign very soon in the 1990s, this will be the era of democracy and freedom.

Q. Do you see this democracy and freedom also being extended to the Arab World because some people see freedom and democracy in Arab countries linked to freedom for Palestine.

A. It is very important to know here that many Arab countries have started to put into practice the system of plurality of political parties. Many Arab leaders have spoken about the system of Shura (consultation) about freedom, democracy. Jordan is a good example with its recent elections.

Q. Coming to our part of the world, you have been active in mediation in Afghanistan. How do you see the Afghan situation?

A. The development of events in Afghanistan has proved that my point of view is correct. All that I advised them was very accurate and very correct. It's enough to have one Lebanon.

Q. Advised to whom, who's "them"?

A. All parties concerned (with a laugh). By the way, the Iranians support my point of view on the Afghan issue. They are also against continuing the war in Afghanistan. (PLO officials said that 'Arafat, during his March 1989 visit to Islamabad, had strongly opposed the attack on Jalalabad saying it would not succeed).

Q. The whole region from Israel to India is in ferment: Intifadah, Lebanon, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan and I might add for your information, Kashmir. The Kashmiris are also inspired by Intifadah. All the upsurge is in Muslim areas. How do you see the situation?

A. I am not following this point (Kashmir). You are near there. I am not following it (smiles).

Q. You had good relations with Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, how are your relations with his daughter now that she is Prime Minister of Pakistan?

A. The same, the same. I am very happy that I have this very strong relationship with Her Excellency, with the Government of Pakistan.

Q. How is the military aspect of Pakistan-Palestine relations?

A. This has been consistent from the past, through all regimes, not only from now. Our military delegation was recently invited to witness your big exercise Zarb-e-Momin. We have good relations in all areas including military training of our people. However, this cannot be termed as military cooperation since we don't ask them for anything.

Q. Some people feel that like the situation after the Ramadan War in 1973, when the Americans "hijacked" the Palestinians issue so as to nullify the diplomatic impact on the ground, now too the same thing is happening with the Intifadah and we are heading towards a diplomatic anti-climax, courtesy the US, Israel and some of their "friends" in the region. Would you say that victory is being snatched away from the Palestinians.

A. Do you mean that the United States is pushing the region into war. Because the other alternative, to peace, is war, and the Middle East is the only region where there is no limitation of arms. In this region there are nuclear weapons, chemical weapons, missiles and conventional arms.

What does this mean, that America is prepared to push the whole area to disaster, to a new catastrophe. And this time, it's not a picnic. The Israelis should remember, they cannot face even one of the East Basra battles (fought by Iran and Iraq). We are not offering this peace initiative from a weak platform. We are speaking from a position of strength.

We are searching for the peace of the braves. And I am searching for a new De Gaulle, it seems there is no De Gaulle.

Q. That's a very apt analogy?

A. Looking for a brave leader who can make the peace. It will be an illusion for the U.S. or Israel to know that the Intifadah can be crushed. The Intifadah will continue, till the end of the Israeli occupation, until we are able to raise our flag on Jerusalem, with Al-Quds al-Sharif, as our capital. And all Muslims have to remember, it is a promise from Allah in the Holy Koran, they will return to enter the Mosque (in Al-Quds) as they have done before.

Q. What would be your message to Muslims?

A. We have a date to pray together in Jerusalem, the first Qibla and the third Holy Mosque. It is coming very soon. And our state is not more than a stone's throw away. Inshallah [God willing].

Shevardnadze Adviser Due for Tunis Talks 1 Feb

LD0102131990 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Brother Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the PLO Executive Committee, announced that the Soviet foreign minister's advisor on the Middle East will arrive in Tunis today for discussions with Palestinian officials on the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. Al-Najjab added that the discussions are within the framework of continuous coordination between Moscow and the PLO. He pointed out that the discussion will deal with the Arab-Israeli conflict in view of the fact that U.S. Secretary of State Baker will be visiting Moscow next month. He said: The United States should be pushed to lift the restrictions which were imposed last fall on the emigration of Soviet Jews, and also the U.S. Administration should increase the number of Soviets allowed to settle in the United States.

'Arafat Receives Soviet Message, Talks to Hassan

JN0102073090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] In Tunis, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has received a message from the Soviet leaders. According to Palestinian sources, the message, termed important, dealt with the emigration of Soviet Jewry to Israel. It was conveyed by Gennadiy Tarasov, Soviet foreign minister's adviser for Middle East Affairs.

In a related development, PLO Executive Committee Member Sulayman al-Najjab has disclosed that the PLO will ask Moscow to implement the following measures in order to check Jewish emigration to Israel: Prevent

direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv, use Rome or Vienna once again as stations for emigrating Jews from which they can freely choose their final destination, accept the right of the Soviet Jews to return home, pressure the U.S. Government into abolishing its recent restrictions on the acceptance of Soviet Jews, and obtain guarantees that the Soviet Jews will not be settled in east Jerusalem or the rest of the occupied territory.

The topic of Jewish emigration to Israel, in addition to Palestinian developments and the situation in the occupied territories, were the central theme of talks between King Hassan II and Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived unexpectedly in Marrakech yesterday.

PLO, 'Arafat, Others on Soviet Jews' Emigration

AL-YAWM Cites 'Arafat

JN3001171390 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 29 Jan 90 p 1

[By Ashraf al-'Ashri in Cairo]

[Text] In an exclusive statement to AL-YAWM, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has stressed that Saudi Arabia is the only Arab country that fully honors its financial obligations to the intifadah as decided by the Arab League and at the meetings of Arab foreign ministers. 'Arafat's statement comes amid celebrations of Arab support for the blessed Palestinian intifadah against the Zionist occupation.

Saudi Arabia always rushes to provide financial support, and frequently before it is due, 'Arafat said.

He added: Through AL-YAWM, I thank the leaders and people of Saudi Arabia for this support, which serves as the basic fuel that enables the intifadah in the occupied territories to realize the Palestinian dream of establishing the independent Palestinian state, which is a stone's throw away.

God willing, we will soon raise the Palestinian flag over the minarets of Jerusalem, 'Arafat asserted.

'Arafat expressed regret for the failure of some Arab countries to abide by the resolutions of the Arab League and the meetings of Arab foreign ministers, and by their own repeated pledges to provide full support for the intifadah.

He stressed to AL-YAWM that the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel is a disaster hanging over the Arab world.

He called on the Arab countries to confront the Zionist plot that Shamir has lately unleashed; namely, the creation of the so-called Greater Israel. He described this as an Israeli illusion that enjoys full and direct U.S. support.

'Araf?' urged the Arab leaders and Arab organizations and institutions to apply pressure on the United Nations and European organizations to halt this emigration, which jeopardizes the peace process. The negative impact of this emigration, he said, will appear in the future when the number of Jews arriving from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe grows in keeping with a malicious scheme cunningly designed and carefully implemented by Zionism.

On his repeated visits to Cairo, the Palestinian president said he comes to Cairo at any time for constant consultations and coordination with the Egyptian leaders and to get acquainted with the latest developments with a view to resolving the Palestinian issue and achieving the goals the Palestinian people are waiting for.

'Arafat said every Arab country is a second homeland, which he visits anytime and as often as he wants.

'Arafat Speaks at Rally

JN3101210990 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1828 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has warned of the possibility of a Middle East explosion if the Zionist enemy government continues its intransigence and rejection of the peace initiative proposed by the PLO. Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar added: When we proposed this peace initiative, we did not proceed from a weak position, but because we are aware of historical inevitability and international changes. He added: Our intifadah has been anticipatory. The masses in Berlin and Prague have taken to the streets chanting in Arabic: Intifadah, intifadah. We have also been anticipatory in our vision and prediction of international changes, which we began to deal with in the spirit of the age.

These remarks came in a wide-ranging, historic speech by brother president Abu-'Ammar during a political rally organized by the Egyptian national committee for supporting the intifadah. The rally was attended by Arab and foreign ambassadors, diplomats, party and political movement leaders, and representatives from all forces, organizations, professional unions, and federations in Egypt, in addition to a large audience of ordinary citizens. Brother Abu-'Ammar began his historic speech by addressing an appeal to Soviet President Gorbachev to halt Jewish immigration into occupied Palestine, a matter that poses a grave danger in the Middle East.

Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar added: We are the defenders of the three heavenly religions, not the Zionists who use religion as a pretext to safeguard their interests, given that the Zionist entity is the spearhead of anti-Arab forces on our land. Brother leader Abu-'Ammar said the enemy confiscated 140 square kilometers in Gaza, whose area totals 340 square kilometers, and dug deep wells for settlements in this area. On the other hand, we are prohibited by the force of arms from digging deep wells. The pure water goes to their wells. Therefore, the highest percentage of kidney failure is among the Gaza population.

Brother leader Abu-'Ammar added: The Israeli chief of staff yesterday said: We use tear gas. I tell him: You are a liar. It was not I who said that they are using internationally forbidden toxic gases, but two medical teams from Belgium and America who took the bombs and tested them in their laboratories. The medical teams held news conferences in Brussels and Washington in which they said that these gases were toxic and not tear gas.

The brother leader president added: During the past 26 months we have been facing chemical warfare. I would like to ask U.S. President Bush how he can approve of these crimes against our Palestinian people through the use of U.S. weapons and money. If Berlin is hit, he becomes furious over freedom and human rights. I ask him: Are human rights confined to certain areas in the world? I also ask him: Are not there human rights for the Palestine people? I am not asking him about self-determination or a Palestinian state. I am only asking him about human rights.

Brother leader Abu-'Ammar declared that the Palestinian laborer did not rise because of poverty but because of a deep conviction that this land had to be liberated and that this land is Arab and will remain as such.

Addressing the Zionist prime minister, brother leader president Abu-'Ammar added: I say to Shamir: You cannot call this land Judaea and Samaria or Greater Israel because our ancestors were buried in this land and our descendants will be buried in it. It is an Arab land and we will liberate it. I know that this land went for the lowest prices. I also know that when we regain it we will have paid a martyr, a wounded person, or a prisoner for every inch. We do not fight Israel, but we are fighting this great satan, America.

The brother leader president then took out an Israeli silver coin and said: As long as Camp David exists why do you not ask them: Why did you place on this piece of coin the map of Greater Israel from the Iranian border to the Nile River?

Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar added: We must be aware that the new Jewish immigrants did not come to replace us only, but also the entire Arab nation. The Israeli flag is represented by two blue lines and the star of Israel between them. The two lines represent the Nile and the Euphrates and the State of Israel stands between them.

Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar asserted that the valiant intifadah, with its stones and martyrs' blood, is not defending Bayt Sahur, Nabulus, Jerusalem, and Gaza only, but is also defending the Arab nation from the ocean to the gulf. I call on my Arab nation to wake up.

Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar said: Shamir does not want us to name our delegation. This means that we must stand at attention in front of the U.S. Administration. He said: I will not stand at attention for anybody. And I say that this great Palestinian people gave me the pen to speak on their behalf and to sign in their name. I will not betray this people nor this Arab nation.

Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar stressed that no one can impose anything on our Palestinian people. We do not demand the impossible; we demand the right to self-determination. I say to Bush: Why do not you admit the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, which is one of the important articles in the American Constitution? And 148 countries, except the United States and Israel, supported the right to self-determination.

Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar added: I also say to Shamir that these Palestinian people are the genuine and basic figure in the Middle East equation. There is no peace but the Palestinian peace. Glory to God in heaven, peace on earth, and goodwill among people. It is the Palestinian peace, not Palestinian capitulation.

Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar said: Bush, Shamir, Sharon, and Baker must know full well that nobody can impose capitulation on the Palestinian people.

Concluding his historic speech, Abu-'Ammar said: Our heroic people will continue their mammoth intifadah one wave after another. I say to all martyrs, and at the top of them my brother martyr leader Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], that the pledge will remain the pledge and the oath will remain the oath. And the intifadah will continue despite the 5,600 miscarriages. We made an agreement with our women that every Palestinian woman will give birth to 12 children so that we will continue the march until victory.

PLO Urges USSR To Halt Emigration

JN3101163090 Baghdad INA in English 1505 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Tunis, Jan 31, INA—The Palestine Liberation Organization has called upon the Soviet leadership to suspend the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and to permit those who emigrated to return to the Soviet Union.

Member of the PLO Executive Committee Sulayman al-Najjab, said at a news conference here today that the PLO would discuss with the Soviet Envoy Gennadiy Tarasov, who arrives here today, prospects of pressing the U.S. Administration to accept emigrating Soviet Jews instead of moving them to occupied Palestine.

He added that the Palestinian leadership would discuss with the Soviet envoy practical guarantees on preventing Zionist occupation authorities from settling the emigrating Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories.

Meanwhile, the PLO Executive Committee continues here its meetings started yesterday under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat to discuss current political developments and moves on the bases of the Palestinian peace initiative in dealing with the Palestine issue.

PLO sources said that any settlement ignoring bases of the Palestinian peace initiative would be resisted by the Palestinian people and aborted since it would place the region on the verge of explosions that threaten world peace and the existing international detente.

The sources stressed that the Palestinian people would carry on fight until achieving just peace and securing right to self-determination and establishing their independent state.

U.S., USSR Excuses 'Unconvincing'

JN0102104890 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1946 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Political commentary: "The Emigration of the Soviet Jews; Who Is Responsible? And What Are the Arab Priorities?"]

[Text] Brothers, sons of our great Palestinian people, and sons of our glorious Arab nation: Without frightening, alarming, and attempting to transcend facts, we want to touch on the most important and pressing issue—namely, the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union to the Zionist entity, the influx of immigrants without any constraints, and the potential dangers of this emigration.

To start with, we would like to say that the ongoing verbal attempts by the United States to acquit itself of responsibility for this emigration are unsuccessful and unconvincing to anyone. The United States made continuous formidable efforts and used the strongest possible pressure to turn the concept of human rights into a single slogan; namely, the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union to the Zionist entity. Moreover, the United States closed its wide gates to those Jews so that they will be compelled to travel to the Zionist entity. And above all, the United States is the source of life and accomodation for those Jews. It is enough for us to remember that of the total value of the U.S. assistance and grants to the Zionist entity, the share of the Israeli individual amounts to $30,000 annually—which, as you see, is high beyond belief. Any U.S. attempt to evade responsibility, therefore, becomes empty, meaningless rhetoric.

In the same context, we in the PLO underline the principles of human rights and demand that these include the Palestinian people. We also emphasize the freedom of peoples and states to choose their political policies. We renew our eagerness to maintain the friendship with the Soviet Union. Notwithstanding all this, we think the reasons the Soviet Union is giving to justify the emigration of its Jews to the Zionist entity convince nobody as they do not take into consideration the human rights of the Palestinian people. The Soviet Union, also, agreed to open direct flights from its air and sea ports to Israel without a stopover station and without searching for alternatives.

The other fact is that the emigration of Soviet Jews to the Zionist entity is taking place under the shadow of stumbling and drawn-out attempts to crystallize a peace formula in the region. It has become clear that the Zionist entity, together with the United States of course, is stalling for time to create new facts that would enable it to undermine and blatantly reject all peace efforts. It is regrettable that the rates of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to the Zionist entity are higher even than expected by the leaders of the Zionist entity themselves. This in itself adds to their obvious hostile appetite, so much so that Shamir is telling the entire world that he does not want to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza because he wants to settle the immigrant Soviet Jews there.

There is, finally, the essence of the issue: The danger of this emigration is not confined to the Palestinians, it includes all the Arabs. It flagrantly upsets the Middle East balance and torpedoes all bases of peace and security in the region. It is enough for us to say in this respect that the Israeli currency in use everywhere carries the map of this Zionist scheme—a map that, apart from Palestine, includes other Arab countries and vast Arab territories. Thus, the Arabs are at the heart of the challenge, not only insofar as their duty toward Palestine is concerned, but also insofar as their defense of themselves, their sovereignty, their existence, and the future of their generations is concerned. This challenge, represented by the emigration of Soviet Jews to the Zionist entity, must be a top priority in Arab action, both through Arab relations and dealings with the concerned countries—to press them into finding other solutions—and through Arab initiative, private efforts, and serious decisions to face up to this eminent danger. Will this be done quickly? We hope so. As far as we in the PLO are concerned, we will continue to stand in the first defensive trench until our nation joins us along the path of victory.

PNSF on 'Judaizing' of Territories

JN2301193390 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] An official spokesman of the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] today a issued news statement on the emigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine. Following is the text:

The influx of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine has encouraged the Zionist invaders to go far in their hostile, expansionist schemes aimed at Judaizing the entire Palestinian land. It encouraged them to blatantly declare their refusal to withdraw from any single inch of the land they occupied in 1967, to unleash their Torah schemes of Greater Israel, and to persist in their brutal oppressive measures to crush the heroic intifadah of our people in the occupied territories by the force of steel and fire.

The new waves of Soviet Jews emigrating to occupied Palestine come as a result of collusion between the United States and the Zionist entity. The leaders of the White House restricted the entry of these emigrants to the United States, driving them to emigrate to Palestine. This boosts the strength of the Zionist entity, the most

dangerous base of U.S. imperialism, which is being used as a tool of aggression against the Arab nation with a view to imposing the imperialist-Zionist hegemony on Arab capabilities.

This emigration causes the deepest feelings of anxiety for our Palestinian people and brother Arab peoples since it threatens to completely Judaize our homeland, Palestine, and tempts the Zionists to carry out their scheme of collective transfers of our people from the occupied homeland in pursuit of the Zionist movement's slogan "Land Without People for People Without Land." It also places a new, grave obstacle to the struggle of our people to attain their rights in their homeland, foremost of which are their rights to repatriation and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

Proceeding from concern about the Palestinian-Soviet and Arab-Soviet friendship, and from appreciation of the Soviet Union's support for the just cause of our Palestinian people and their courageous and sacrificial struggle over tens of years, we ask you [not further identified] to take the necessary measures to prevent the Soviet Jews from emigrating to our homeland, Palestine. We understand the Soviet motives in allowing its citizens to travel and emigrate in line with the principles of human rights, but these human rights must not be at the expense of the rights of our Palestinian people to their homeland.

Sanaa VOP: Intifadah Must Escalate

JN3001213190 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] No analytical talk about Jewish immigration to Palestine is needed to clarify the danger it poses to the Palestinian cause—land and people. The Palestinians in particular are fully aware of what Jewish immigration to their homeland means and the grave danger it poses to their national and rightful struggle. At this stage, with the appearance of the threat of Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, it is important to shed light on the real dimensions and aspects of this danger to determine our response to it and what we—the Palestinian intifadah and the PLO—should do to oppose it.

This new danger has three elements. The first is the new Soviet decision granting every Soviet citizen the freedom of emigration and travel. This also means freedom for Jews to emigrate. The second element is the U.S. decision announced last summer—arranged by the Zionist lobby in the Congress—banning Soviet Jews from going to the United States. The third element is the activity of the Zionist movement and Israel to steer Soviet Jews to the occupied Palestinian territories. Those are the elements the new danger, or rather the new challenge, which is now added to the other challenges that our people are struggling to overcome in order to regain their national legitimate rights.

The Arab nation should work vigorously to obstruct the U.S. anti- Palestinian policies, especially the law banning Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to the United States. The second front on which to confront Jewish immigration and its grave threat is to escalate the intifadah and stir up the confrontation against the occupiers until Soviet Jews everywhere realize that if they want to emigrate to Palestine, they will be emigrating to an insecure and unstable area and that they will be involved in a confrontation with the Palestinian people, who are determined to liberate their national soil and establish their independent state.

On the other hand, Shamir's statement on a greater Israel receiving millions of immigrants confirms the need for Arabs to reconsider their position on the conflict with Zionism and Israel. The threat of a greater Israel involves Arab countries and jeopardizes the interests of the entire Arab nation. The issue of immigration and its anticipated dangers will sooner or later create a new Arab awareness, giving rise to new responsibilities and attitudes on behalf of the revolution, the intifadah, and in the interest of the Palestine people's battle of liberation in defense of their homeland and the Arab homeland and in defense of their existence and that of the Arab nation.

Those are the dimensions of the dangers and future impact of immigration. The danger is there, but it will produce a proper revolutionary response. The danger is there, but it is a challenge that will be confronted by the Palestinians and the Arabs with a new spirit and with a firm determination to defy and confront the Zionist threat with all legitimate means of struggle, confrontation, and resistance.

Palestinian Communist Party To Change Programs

JN3101095490 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 31 Jan 90 p 18

[Text] Tunis, PETRA—Within the next 24 hours, the Palestinian Communist Party [PCP] is expected to announce its leadership's decision to change the party's name and to take new measures affecting the very essence of its programs in light of the political changes witnessed by the world's communist parties.

Sulayman al-Najjab, PLO Executive Committee and PCP Political Bureau member, has invited local news media and representatives of Arab and world news agencies to attend a news conference he will hold at his office today. A number of the PCP leaders will also attend the conference.

Palestinian sources said that the new PCP structure changes were adopted during the PCP Political Bureau's recent meetings in Moscow.

Official Outlines New Program

JN0102114090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
1 Feb 90 pp 22, 20

[By Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] Sulayman al-Najjab, Palestinian Communist Party [PCP] secretary general, has called on all Palestinian national and progressive forces to join the PCP in order to from a united political party. Furthermore, he has announced that the PCP has become a party not only for the working class, but for all Palestinians regardless of their social class.

In a telephone interview from Tunis with AL-DUSTUR, al-Najjab said that the PCP has outlined a new project for its political program following a lengthy debate inside and outside the occupied territories. However, it kept its name as the Palestinian Communist Party.

The Palestinian official added that the PCP's method of establishing its organization is based on democracy within the framework of the PCP's central structure, and in a manner which guarantees the unity of will and action and allows the possibility of development in the forms of democracy in view of the changes in the Soviet Union and in response to internal factors. Being aware of the historic responsibility to maintain the unity of the Palestinian left, the PCP, al-Najjab added, will exert utmost efforts in cooperation with the forces near to it, ideologically and politically, in order to embody this unity within the framework of a united party. The PCP will develop its struggling relations with the various forces and national and progressive Arab parties, in keeping with its belief in the link between the Palestinian Arab people's struggle and the struggle of the brotherly peoples to safeguard liberty, democracy, social progress, and unity.

The PCP's new draft program includes a number of chapters on the PCP's bylaws and their nature; a chapter on the Palestinian national liberation phase, its aims and tasks; a call for national alliances within the context of the unified national front, the tasks of struggle in the national liberation phase; a chapter on the bond between the Palestinian people's struggle and the Arab peoples' struggle; and a chapter on the impact of world changes on the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Algeria

Diplomatic Ties Established With ROK

LD1601084490 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Diplomatic relations have been established between Algeria and South Korea. The Algerian Government and the Government of the Republic of South Korea, wishing to strengthen their links of friendship and cooperation, have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level. This was announced in a communique dated 15 January 1990 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Amnesty International Association Legalized

LD2301230690 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] The Algerian Amnesty International Association has been legalized by the Interior Ministry. The Association is chaired by Mr Nabih Bencheikh, professor of law at the University of Algiers. The Algerian Amnesty International Association is characterized by impartiality and independence from government and political parties. It is also reported that its action is not in competition with the Human Rights League.

Expanded Decision-Making Role Seen for Prefecture

LD2201130190 Algiers APS in English 1000 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Algiers, 22/1/90 (APS)—The Council of Government met Sunday here under the chairmanship of Mouloud Hamrouche.

The works mainly devoted to an examination of the draft bill related to the Wilaya (Prefecture). The draft bill which falls in the continuation of texts concerning the commune which have already been examined by the council, marks a complementary step in the reinforcement of the democratic process at the local level. The Wilaya as a decentralized local collectivity will then see its role reinforced and the power of the decision of the People's Assembly of the Wilaya enlarged. In this context, this assembly will have its own attributions and modalities that will enable it to take in charge its missions in a [word indistinct] that will limit its attributions, those of the Wali (head of province) and the local administration. The Council of Government also examined conditions of intervention of economic operators in the frame of Algerian-Libyan relations and examined means to raise the constraints and boost economic exchanges between the two countries.

AIDS Figures Given; Countermeasures Planned

LD1501233990 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Thirty-six cases of AIDS and 179 cases testing HIV positive have been reported in Algeria. Thirty people have died so far. The situation is certainly not alarming, but it could become so if the problem is not dealt with quickly. The Ministry of Health is aware of this; a medium-term program to combat it exists. Prevention is the most important axis of it. The first measure is that all blood [as heard] will be checked before the summer of 1990. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Ethiopian Foreign Minister Confers With Mubarak

NC3101170990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1033 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—At the presidential office in Heliopolis this morning, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Tesfaye Dinka, Ethiopian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, who is currently visiting Cairo. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Ethiopian ambassador in Cairo were also present.

The Ethiopian minister stated that he had delivered a message from Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile-Mariam on the relations between the two countries, which he described as excellent. He maintained that President Mubarak and leader Mengistu have extremely good ties.

In his statement, the Ethiopian official stated that President Mubarak had once again stressed the existing excellent relations between the two countries and emphasized that Egypt is always prepared to promote cooperation with Ethiopia. He noted that the meeting dealt in detail with relations and issues of mutual concern.

In response to a question about Ethiopia's relations with Israel, the Ethiopian deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that there were many reasons for the restoration of Ethiopia's relations with Israel. However, he stated that these relations will not be at the expense of Ethiopia's relations with the Arab countries. He added: Our ties with our traditional friends will not change. We will strengthen these relations further. Our ties with Israel will remain purely at the bilateral level and will neither be at the expense of other states nor at the expense of Ethiopia's commitment to the Palestinian issue.

On the prospects of cooperation between Israel and Ethiopia, Tesfaye Dinka said that the resumption of relations with Israel took place only 10 days ago and Egypt [as received] did not discuss the prospects of cooperation. He pointed out that relations with Israel will be on a bilateral level, noting that Ethiopia has bilateral relations with more than 100 states and Israel will be one of them. Our relations with Israel will be ordinary bilateral ones, he said.

The Ethiopian foreign minister explained that he is currently only visiting Egypt. He reiterated that Egyptian-Ethiopian relations are excellent. We will endeavor

to promote and consolidate existing cooperation, he added. The Ethiopian minister said he will resume his talks in this connection with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

For his part, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said the meeting was cordial. He added that Tesfaye Dinka had conveyed a message to President Husni Mubarak from Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile-Mariam expressing the strong solid relations between the two countries and reflecting their historical ties and mutual interests.

Continuing, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said: We sensed Ethiopia's desire to strengthen these relations and prevent any attempt to harm them. He pointed out that Tesfaye Dinka's visit to Egypt is significant, adding that Egypt is anxious to bolster these relations. It constantly endeavors to achieve stability and security in this vital area of the world, whether in Egypt and Ethiopia, the Red Sea area, or neighboring countries.

The Egyptian foreign minister said his talks with his Ethiopian counterpart dealt with bilateral issues and topics on security and stability in the Red Sea. He added that the talks also dealt with issues relating to the basin of the Nile River, current mutual interests, and the desire of all parties to defend these interests. Egypt, which is an outlet state [masabb], has its interests in this area as well. He affirmed that Ethiopia completely appreciates and protects these interests.

Reaction to Soviet Jews' Immigration to Israel

AL-AKHBAR Assails U.S Position

NC2801113890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0735 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR stresses that today the Arab nation is facing a severe test and says that it must use all its resources to challenge and overcome this test through a united stand in defending itself against possible dangers posed by the emigration of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel. If this happens, Israel will be able to usurp what is left of Palestine at the expense of its people, who have lived there for thousands of years.

In its 28 January editorial, AL-AKHBAR adds that what makes this more dangerous is the amazing stand taken by the United States, which is banning Soviet Jews from emigrating to the United States, forcing them to go to Israel. This, it says, shows that Washington is overtly helping Shamir demolish every peace effort.

The paper goes on to say that the influx of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union and other East European countries following recent changes there is the most serious development regarding the Palestinian issue. It adds that the Israeli plot has become clearer; after exploiting these immigrants in order to make them settle in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israel will use their presence there as an excuse to consolidate Israeli occupation and reject withdrawal from that area.

The paper calls for Arabs to quickly confront this situation before it becomes a reality that will be difficult to change. It asks whether the scattered criticisms appearing in the press or made by some Arab leaders are enough to constitute an Arab reaction to Soviet Jews' immigrating to Israel.

Al-Baz Advocates Calm Approach

NC3101195290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1843 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry undersecretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has said we must deal calmly with the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration. Our reaction to this issue must not be in the form of slander campaigns and criticism, but must be based on the effects which such immigration will have on our interests and on the peace process in the Middle East, he asserted.

In a lecture he delivered today at the Cairo International Book Fair, Dr al-Baz said that it is estimated that between 300,000 and 500,000 Soviet Jews will be allowed to emigrate to Israel. He noted that there are several considerations behind the emigration of Soviet Jews. These include the idea of the human right to emigrate which the Soviet Union has been advocating following the recent developments in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Dr al-Baz said Egypt will hold consultations to explain the serious effects which the immigration of such a large number of Soviet Jews to the occupied territory will have on the Middle East peace process.

Envoy to U.S. Voices 'Extreme Concern'

NC3101200090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1907 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Washington, 31 Jan (MENA)—The MENA correspondent in Washington learned today that Egypt has informed the United States of its extreme concern over the attempts to settle new Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Informed sources told the MENA correspondent that Egyptian Ambassador Ra'uf al-Ridi met with John Kelly, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, yesterday and pointed out the seriousness of the attempts to settle new immigrants in the occupied territories.

The Egyptian ambassador also told him that Egypt fully agrees with the U.S. position that this settlement activity constitutes a major obstacle to peace and to the achievement of a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Ambassador al-Ridi and John Kelly also discussed the results of the efforts being made to advance the peace

process in the light of the recent contacts among the parties concerned and their positions.

Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Visits Cairo

Comments on Meeting With Mubarak

NC2801133990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Gelu Voican Voiculescu at the presidential office this morning.

The meeting was attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, as well as by Romanian Foreign Trade Minister Alexandru Margaritescu [title as received] and Gheorghe Crainiceanu, vice chairman of the Romanian Bank of Foreign Trade.

Following the meeting, the Romanian deputy prime minister said that he handed President Mubarak a message from Ion Iliescu, President of the Romanian National Salvation Front [NSF]. He added: I conveyed to President Mubarak greetings from the NSF chairman and stressed the Romanian people's goodwill toward President Mubarak and the friendly Egyptian people.

Voiculescu stressed Romania's desire to strengthen and expand its relations with Egypt in all fields, particularly in economic cooperation.

The Romanian official added that during his meeting with President Mubarak, he discussed outlines for consolidating bilateral relations. He noted that he had emphasized to President Mubarak that the Romanian revolution had come to promote Romania's relations with its friendly countries. He added he will hold talks with Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning, to discuss economic cooperation between their countries.

Asked if the discussion with President Mubarak had included the topic of military cooperation between Egypt and Romania, the Romanian deputy prime minister said: We did not discuss any details, but we are eager to strengthen our relations in all fields.

In response to a question regarding the NSF position on participation in the coming elections in Romania, Voiculescu said the Front will participate in these elections as a wide movement based on national consensus. He noted that the Front welcomes any party wishing to join this movement.

The Romanian deputy prime minister pointed out in this respect that the national salvation process cannot be completed in a few months. It requires more time to fulfill the aspirations of the Romanian people, he said. He added that Romania is undergoing an extensive national renaissance in a free atmosphere. He said we hope we will now build a democracy based on freedom and respect for humanity, noting that preparations for a new constituion for the country are under way.

Asked about the date for convening the new judicial council in Romania, Voiculescu said the council will meet after the general elections slated for 20 May.

Concludes Visit, Departs 1 Feb

NC0102082790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Feb (MENA)—Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Gelu Voican and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this morning at the end of a visit which lasted several days.

During his stay, the Romanian official held talks with Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, and Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation. He also met with al-Azhar Shaykh Jad-al-Haq 'Ali Jad-al-Haq.

Egyptian-Palestinian Report Submitted to U.S.

JN2001193590 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 19 Jan 90 pp 1, 21

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from Washington]

[Excerpts] Official Egyptian sources have stated to AL-ITTIHAD that during his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid proposed an Egyptian-Palestinian working paper that gives a common perspective and specific points regarding the two sides' acceptance of Baker's plan. AL-ITTIHAD has learned that this paper was discussed during a 1 and ½ hour private meeting between 'Abd-al-Majid and Baker on Tuesday [16 January]. This was the second meeting they held that day, and were set to discuss the peace process.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the main points in the Egyptian-Palestinian working paper are:

1. The acceptance of Baker's plan can be made on the basis that what is taking place now constitutes part of the comprehensive settlement.
2. Egypt asserts its interest in advancing the peace process and contributing to the success of Baker's efforts to convene the tripartite meeting.
3. The PLO asserts its interest in the peaceful solution and its readiness to negotiate.
4. The PLO is not required to eliminate its role.
5. UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 form the basis for the dialogue and elections.
6. The PLO will choose the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue. The delegation will represent Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories.
7. The land for peace principle is emphasized.
8. Elections must be linked to the comprehensive solution and to the convening of an international conference for peace that will lead to comprehensive talks.

An official source asserted to AL-ITTIHAD that Dr 'Usamah al-Baz is holding private talks with U.S. State Department officials and with James Baker's assistants on the Egyptian-Palestinian paper and on the possibility of removing the obstacles to the holding of the tripartite meeting among Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state.

The source asserted that the outcome of these talks will be discussed during the meeting scheduled for Friday [19 January] between 'Abd-al-Majid and Baker. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid had met with Khalid al-Hasan, chairman of the Palestine National Council's Foreign and Parliamentary Committee, and discussed the Middle East peace efforts with him.

Al-Hasan said that he and 'Abd-al-Majid discussed the outcome of his current Washington visit and the proposed tripartite meeting. He said he believes the consultations aim to save the tripartite meeting—the plans for which reached a deadlock as a result of Israeli intransigence.

Answering a question on the PLO's position on these diplomatic efforts, al-Hasan said: "We welcome the tripartite meeting. We hope it will be convened and be followed by the expected Cairo meeting between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations."

Answering another question on his contacts in Washington, al-Hasan pointed out that he is in the U.S. capital on a private visit, and said: "Our contacts are made through Egypt." [passage omitted]

Libya

JANA Editor Assails U.S. Foreign Aid Policy

LD3101191790 Tripoli JANA in English 1825 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, Ay Annar [January] 31, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—It was announced in Washington yesterday that the U.S. Government has lifted the economic embargo which imposed on the state of Mozambique following its abandonment of the communist regime.

U.S. State Department's sources reported that the U.S. President took such a decision himself pointing out that now Mozambique can get American aid.

JANA's political editor commented on this American behaviour in dealing with other states by saying:

It is natural that states are free to chose their political or economic regimes taking into consideration that such a choice is a national matter concerning the state itself and stems from its national interest without any external effects or pressures from any one. But the U.S. law, which has nothing to do with the laws of nature and natural behaviours, see something else.... America in fact imposes its sanctions on the states which choose a regime contradicting the American vision and halt its assistance on the regimes which do not follow it. It does not extend grants and aids except to those who obey it and carry out its orders by persuing the policies it chooses for them and imposes upon them.

America which boasts with the slogans of human rights must extend its aid to those who need them actually without looking into their political alligence or their economic drives... but raising slogans to America is nothing but an informational propaganda and a sword on the necks of others.

JANA's political editor asserted that America was practicing official terrorism when it linked its economic aid to the poorer states to their submission to the U.S. policy and conditions—which is a colonial method that must be dropped from international relations.

The editor explained that what has happened with Mozambique is nothing but an example of U.S. dealings with other states.... Mozambique according to the American vision has become a state that deserves U.S. aid only after it abandoned communism without any humane look or consideration which exposes the U.S. behaviour towards nations.

JANA's political editor concluded his comment saying:

"America through its behaviour in the world wants to be a god on Earth and that any opposing vision to its own vision is a mistake even if it was true".

Information Minister Praises Ties With USSR

LD2601205390 Tripoli JANA in English 1655 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Moscow, January 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture praised the deep rooted existing relations between Great Jamahiriyah and the Soviet Union.

In his address to the opening session of the Libyan Arab-Soviet negotiations in the field of information and culture, he said that Great Jamahiriyah was supporting the current policy President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union was pursuing. He pointed out that the socialism has been implemented in the correct manner now in the Soviet Union.

On its part the head of the Soviet side to this negotiations asserted his country's keenness to consolidate the existing relations with Great Jamahiriyah and to act upon developing them in various fields.

Economic Cooperation Discussed With Iran

LD2601175390 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, Jan. 26, IRNA—Tehran-Tripoli economic cooperation was discussed in a meeting of Libyan

Minister of Strategic Industries Ahmed Fathi Bin-Shatwan and Director General of Iran's Heavy Industries Ministry Nazarollah Esshaqi [name as received] in the industrial town of Misurata thursday.

During the meeting, Shatwan described his recent visit to Tehran as positive and called for further expansion of economic cooperation between the two countries.

The Libyan minister also thanked Iran for its participation in the 24th Tripoli International Fair to be held between March 5-25.

Esshaqi submitted Shatwan a message of the Iranian Minister of Heavy Industries Hadi Nejad-Hoseyniyan. Esshaqi is currently visiting Libya heading a delegation.

Economic Cooperation Agreement With Spain Signed

LD3001205290 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 30 Jan (JANA)- The minutes of the meetings of the third session of the Libyan Arab-Spanish Joint Committee for Economic and Social Cooperation were signed in Tripoli this afternoon. Signing for the Libyan side was the brother secretary of the People's Committee for Oil and for the Spanish side by Secretary of State for Trade Apolino Ruiz. The minutes call for consolidating cooperation in the fields of commercial exchanges, light industries, strategic industries, agriculture, energy, marine resources, communications, health, vocational training, oil industries, and joint investments.

Proceeding from the spirit of the agreements and the protocols signed between the two countries and in an atmosphere of friendship and total frankness, the minutes say, the two sides reviewed aspects and fields of bilateral cooperation and examined ways to develop them in the interest of their two countries.

Out of their desire to increase and broaden bilateral cooperation, the two sides agreed to increase the volume of commercial exchanges. In this respect, they reviewed ways to develop commercial relations between their two countries and stressed the need to consolidate and bolster the volume of commercial exchanges with a view to improving bilateral relations as soon as possible. To achieve this, the two sides have agreed to work to increase the exchange of goods produced in both countries in accordance with their means and needs, encourage companies and enterprises in both countries to develop cooperation, offer the necessary facilities to such companies, and exchange delegations and commercial information between them. The two sides also examined the possibility of taking part jointly in international industrial fairs in the two countries, setting up specialized exhibitions to publicize the other country's products, encouraging cooperation between the Council for the Promotion of Exports in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [GSPLAJ] and the competent quarters in Spain, and exchanging visits.

Economic Cooperation:

The two sides discussed possible cooperation in various economic fields and expressed their desire to exploit these possibilities to reinforce cooperation in the interest of the two countries and in the following light industry sectors:

The two sides agreed to cooperate to develop partnerships and small industries, especially in shoe manufacturing, textiles, the manufacture of electrical goods, minerals, furniture, the manufacture of agricultural equipment, carpet manufacturing, and children's toys.

Strategic Industries:

The Libyan side submitted a detailed explanation of the strategic industries in the GSPLAJ and it was decided to initiate cooperation particularly in the following areas: exploitation of energy and light aviation. The Spanish side will provide information and offers relating to those two subjects, and stressed its preparedness to cooperate in this field.

Agriculture:

The two sides reviewed the various agricultural fields and have agreed to cooperate, particularly in the following sectors: eradication of stem borers and fruit flies, studying the natural and chemical properties of pesticides and identifying the effective substance, and making plans to produce virus-free vaccination, animal production, (?animal husbandry), artificial insemination, and the participation in seminars and conferences held in both countries.

Energy:

The two sides stressed the importance of cooperation in exploiting renewable energy, expanding the electricity network in the Great Jamahiriyah, constructing large power stations, and transferring technology and training. In this respect both sides have agreed on drawing up specified programs.

Marine Resources:

The two sides have agreed to cooperate in the field of maritime fishing. The Spanish side stated its preparedness to contribute toward the development of the existing Libyan plants in this field and provide modern technical and technological expertise.

Transportation:

The two sides have agreed on encouraging cooperation in this field and on direct contacts between the two sides, on strengthening cooperation in the manufacture of medicines and on exchanging information, technical expertise, and visiting professors. [passage omitted]

Oil and Joint Investments Sector:

1) In the oil and gas sector: The two sides discussed cooperation in the field of oil and gas, expressed satisfaction at what has been achieved, and confirmed their support for the talks underway between the competent bodies.
2) Joint investments: The two sides reviewed joint investments, expressed satisfaction at what has been achieved, and confirmed the importance of developing investments in the various fields. They also expressed their satisfaction at the role played by the joint banks and look forward to the increasing of investment in Spain.

Cooperation in the Field of Culture, Education and Scientific Research:

Both sides confirmed the importance of developing cooperation in the fields of culture, information, education and scientific research, and expressed their desire to develop the cultural agreements signed by the two countries.

Sudan

Problems Between General Staff, Council Denied

EA3101171190 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Armed Forces Chief of Staff Major General Ishaq Ibrahim 'Umar has denied all rumors and allegations broadcast by the outlaws' radio concerning sensitivities between the General Staff and National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] members. The chief of staff confirmed the cohesiveness of the Armed Forces and their unshakeable patriotism.

Government Ready To Talk With Rebels on Relief Aid

EA3101164890 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Sudan has confirmed its readiness to resume relief operations effective immediately. It also confirmed the need to offer assistance to migrants in the south and north of the country.

Sudan declared its acceptance of the invitation of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to convene talks immediately with the rebel movement to discuss humanitarian questions. The ICRC has declared its readiness to offer assistance and protection to those affected by the war.

This was disclosed in a statement to a number of West European states during a meeting in Geneva between Staff Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council member and chairman of the national dialogue conference delegation, and the director general of the ICRC and his senior aides. During the meeting, Col Khalifah presented an explanation of the government's efforts to establish peace in the country.

Relief Organization To Resume Juba Flights

EA3101194690 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Nairobi, 31 Jan (SUNA)—The Lutheran World Federation will resume transporting relief supplies by air from Nairobi to Juba, the capital of Equatoria Region, beginning tomorrow, 1 February.

Mr Bob Koepp, head of the organization's office in Nairobi, told SUNA today that a Hercules C-130 will depart from Nairobi for Juba on its first flight tomorrow morning. He said the aircraft will make two flights a day to transport foodstuffs for the citizens in Juba.

Meanwhile, a reliable source in Khartoum told SUNA today that the resumption by relief organizations of their work in the south confirmed the success of the combing operations carried out by the Armed Forces to rout and scatter the remnants of the outlaws, particularly in the areas surrounding Juba.

The source added that officials of the relief organizations must take into consideration the nature of the work they usually do in difficult areas and under severe conditions. The resumption of their work thus puts to rest the claims of the rebel movement.

SUNA Chief, Omani Envoy Discuss Cooperation

EA3001173390 Khartoum SUNA in English 0918 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Jan (SUNA)—The general manager of the SUDAN NEWS AGENCY (SUNA), Muhammad Khawjali al-Salihin, received at his office yesterday the ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman, Mubarak Bin-Khalifah, and discussed cooperation between SUNA and the Omani news agency. The meeting also tackled preparations for the forthcoming visit to Oman by Al-Salihin in the context of a tour to some Arab countries.

SPLM's Lam Akol on Arms Supply, Israel, Shari'a

PM2501144890 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Jan 90 p 4

[Interview with Lam Akol, the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement "second in command," by Kamal Hamid in Nairobi; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Hamid] What is your comment on the report about the dispute and conflict in the movement's leadership?

[Akol] The truth is that we are cohesive and no conflict has affected our ranks. We have clear aims which we seek

to achieve. The dispute among us is a mere rumor with no foundation. Regrettably, such rumors are sometimes spread by some officials.

[Hamid] But you cannot deny the existence of different tendencies within the movements. We know there are leftists, rightists, and southern nationalists.

[Akol] Of course, I do not deny the existence of tendencies within a national democratic movement. We are not a political party that sets conditions for membership. Because we are a broad movement, we leave the door open to anyone who believes in our principles to join us.

[Hamid] Are there no disagreements of any kind as a result of these varied tendencies?

[Akol] True, there are tendencies, and any organization comprising more that 10 people will obviously produce different schools of thought, but I emphasize that there is no disagreement among us. [passage omitted]

[Hamid] Where did you get all these huge quantities of arms?

[Akol] From the Sudanese Army. The movement acquired its arms when it started to move into the bush in 1984. Then we continued to occupy towns, seizing heavy weapons, tanks, rocket launchers, trucks, and aircraft. [passage omitted]

[Hamid] You spoke about recruiting more elements for your movement. Is it true that you have recruits inside the capital?

[Akol] We have supporters throughout Sudan and among all classes. We have elements everywhere, even within the Sudanese Army. And true, we have supporters in Khartoum, as we have in any other city. [passage omitted]

[Hamid] You are accused of making contacts with Israel.

[Akol] We have no links with Israel. Probably people confuse our movement with the separatist Anyanya I movement which was led by Joseph Lagu. On the contrary, we have no links with Israel.

[Hamid] Why reject federalism when it was one of your demands?

[Akol] Federalism requires substance, and talking about it without substance would be meaningless. The world's states which apply federalism have their different conditions. We cannot accept the federalism announced by the government before the details are defined.

[Hamid] Do you shoulder the responsibility for the sufferings of the people in the South?

[Akol] True, people are suffering, but we are not the cause. In fact we are working to end their sufferings, which is why they support us and join our ranks. We admit that the war has caused terrible damage, which is why we are working to stop the war through comprehensive solutions—not partial solutions, as happened in the past.

[Hamid] Do you believe you will win the war?

[Akol] We do not believe so. There can be no winner or loser in a war such as this. We believe we will not be able to destroy the Sudanese Army. Nor will the Sudanese Army be able to destroy the movement. In the end we must sit down at the negotiating table to agree on a solution to Sudan's problems.

[Hamid] We heard that Garang said that the abolition of the shari'a is not his prime objective. And it has been reported that you are resisting the shari'a to appease some of your allies in the North.

[Akol] I never heard John Garang say that. It was attributed to him. We heard that a lot. What he said was that the shari'a was not the only reason which led to the war, but were one of the reasons. We have no allies inside or outside whom we want to appease. [passage omitted]

[Hamid] Do you have special links with the Sudanese Communist Party?

[Akol] Our ties with the Communist Party are no different from our ties with any other party. In fact most of the parties joined us at the Ambo meeting in 1987, whereas the communists refused to take part.

[Hamid] But I know some movement members who were prominent Sudanese Communist Party members.

[Akol] True, there are movement members who were Communist Party members. They abandoned the party and joined the movement as a military and political action, just as I left my party, the Sudanese African Congress, and joined the movement.

[Hamid] Do you, like us, sometimes hear people ask: What does John Garang want? From whom does he want to liberate Sudan?

[Akol] I think whoever asks such a question is inattentive and does not want to know the truth or to review the movement's principles and various statements which explain what we want and from whom we want to liberate Sudan.

[Hamid] Do you support what [former Sudanese Foreign Minister] Mansur Khalid said, namely, that Sudan's problem would be resolved if a southern Christian assumes power in the country?

[Akol] I do not think that Mansur Khalid said exactly that. What he said was that all opportunities should be provided for all the Sudanese. [passage omitted]

[Hamid] Why did you set harsh conditions on the present government immediately after it was formed?

[Akol] We did not set conditions. We issued a statement addressed to the government in which we established

points for achieving peace and stability. We do not believe in preconditions, because they do not encourage negotiation, which we are seeking.

[Hamid] But you demanded the formation of a national unity government.

[Akol] True, but we did not abolish the Army's role. We actually demanded that the government be broadly-based and comprise the parties, the unions, the movement, and the Sudanese Army. We do not ignore the Armed Forces' role in the political structure, but we do not support its assumption of power on its own.

Oman

Information Talks With Syria Open 27 Jan

JN2701111890 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1045 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Muscat, 27 Jan (WAKH)—The first working session of Omani-Syrian information talks was held in Muscat today, chaired by Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas and Syrian counterpart Muhammad Salman.

At the beginning of the session, al-Rawwas delivered a speech in which he said that the Syrian information minister's visit comes at a time when we look toward deepening ties of joint cooperation between the two countries in a practical and effective way embodying the historic ties between Oman and Syria.

During the talks the two sides discussed information cooperation in the broadcasting and television fields and the exchange of news between the two countries' news agencies.

'Executive Plan' Signed

JN2901170690 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Their Excellencies Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas and his Syrian counterpart Muhammad Salman signed an executive plan this morning on information cooperation between the governments of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Sultanate of Oman for 1990-91. Attending the signing ceremonies were senior Ministry of Information officials .

Following the signing, Syria's information minister said he was happy to see the information cooperation program signed between the two brotherly states. Salman said: This is a further step toward better Oman-Syrian relations, which have been developed by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and His Excellency Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad. Other steps will follow to cement ties in every area. Salman noted that other Syrian ministers are to visit Oman, which he said was making appreciable progress toward a brighter future and is developing its cooperation with all nations.

Minister of Information Muhammad al-Rawwas thanked his Syrian counterpart for his remarks on relations between the leaders of the two brother countries. What we signed today, he said, are practical measures on information cooperation between the governments of the two countries. He emphasized that the two countries were eager to develop and strengthen ties in all fields.

PDRY

Supreme Council Presidium Pardons Prisoners

EA3101220790 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Presidium of the Supreme People's Council concluded the proceedings of its session, which lasted 2 days, by deciding to pardon prisoners in case No 3 and case No 4 of 1986 from continuing remaining prison terms as well as defining the location of detention centers and prisons in all the governorates of the republic. It is worth mentioning that these decisions were greatly welcomed by the people and the homeland, both inside and outside the country. They were reported by foreign news agencies and newspapers.

Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council issued two decrees of the presidium of the supreme people's council concerning the release of prisoners in the criminal cases Nos 3 and 4 of 1986 and No 1 of 1989. The first articles of the first decree provide for granting pardon to those remaining prisoners in criminal case No 3 of 1986 and criminal case No 4 of 1986 regarding their remaining prison terms. They are to be released.

They are: Muhammad Ahmad Haydarah al-Shanbah, Nasir Farhan Ahmad al-Shaybah, Nasir Muhammad 'Ali Shanab, Ahmad Muhammad Awad al-Aqil, Salim 'Ali Ahmad Dabi, Mahdi Muhammad Hadi Muhammad, Muhammad Mubarak Marzuq Sa'id, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Nabi Salih Bihayrani, Al-Qabili Abu-Bakr Muqabil 'Ali, Muhammad Salih Miskin Mas'adi, Mubarak Nasir Salim Sa'id, Salim Mubarak Sulayman Haydarah, Muhammad 'Ali Salih Barhum, 'Abdallah Ja'bal 'Ali al-Mas'udi, Nasir Salim 'Ali al-Azzani, 'Abdallah Yahya Jabir Salih, Ahmad Mansur Muhammad Mansur Salah, Salim Awad Hasan Azzan, Yislam Ahmad Faraj Tamu 'Ali Yislam 'Ali Amudi, Salim Ahmad Ba-Yunis.

The first article of decree No 2 provides for a pardon for the remaining prisoners in case No 1 of 1989 regarding what is left of their prison terms. They are to be released.

They are: Ahmad Nasir Salim al-Fadli, 'Ali Sa'id Bin-Shamlan Ba-al-Khayr Sa'id Mahfuz, Salih Awad Ba-Hawd, Ubayd 'Umar Umayyir, 'Abdallah 'Ali Ba-Durus, Umar Muhammad Ba-Mazrubah, Salih 'Umar Qasim, Ramadan Musallam Mahfuz, Sa'id 'Ali Ba-'Ali, Yasin Muhammad Ahmad.

Articles 2 of the two decrees oblige the interior minister to implement them. The rest of the articles provide for the effectiveness of the decrees from the date of their issuance and their publication in the Official Gazette.

Qatar

Austria's Waldheim Accepts Invitation To Visit

JN2701124290 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1200 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Doha, 27 Jan (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, has received a written message from Austrian President Kurt Waldheim in response to the amir's message inviting the Austrian president to pay an official visit to Qatar. The amir's message also deals with bilateral ties and cooperation.

QNA [QATARI NEWS AGENCY] said that in the letter, which was handed to the amir through diplomatic channels, the Austrian president expressed his appreciation for the invitation and accepted it. The date of the visit will be set through diplomatic channels.

The Austrian president expressed confidence that the talks he will hold during the visit with the amir of Qatar will largely contribute to strengthening ties of friendship and cooperation and in promoting bilateral relations.

Saudi Arabia

'Source' Denies Kingdom's Call for Arab Summit

LD3101214290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2115 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Riyadh, 31 Jan (SPA)—A responsible source has said that Arab and international media have reported that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has called for the convening of an Arab summit. The source added: "It is known that calling for the convening of any Arab summit takes place through the Arab League."

The source denied that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has received an invitation from the Arab League to convene such a summit.

Yemen Arab Republic

Joint Military Delegation Leaves for Baghdad

JN0501135790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Brothers Colonel 'Umar 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff and Standing Committee member, and Brigadier General Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, Political Bureau member and defense minister in the southern part of the homeland, left for Baghdad today at the head of a joint military delegation on a visit to Iraq. In a joint statement to SABA', Brothers al-Bashiri and Salih 'Ubayd explained that the Yemeni military delegation will share with the fraternal Iraqi people their celebrations on the occasion of the 69th anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi Army.

During the visit the delegation will become familiar with the progress the Iraqi forces have achieved, and will discuss with Iraqi officials issues concerning military cooperation between the two parts of Yemen on the one hand, and military cooperation with Iraq on the other. They concluded their statement by stating that this cooperation serves peace, security, and stability in the region.

They were seen off by several Armed Forces and security officers, and the Iraqi Ambassador in Sanaa brother 'Abd-al-Husayn al-Rafi'.

Brig Gen Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, defense minister in the southern part of the homeland, arrived in Sanaa this morning and was received by brother Staff Col 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff and Standing Committee member, and Armed Forces officers.

Joint Security Committee Meets in Sanaa

EA0501075090 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] The meetings of the security committee of the two parts of the homeland, which was formed as a result of the meeting of the two interior ministers, began at the Interior Ministry buildings in Sanaa this afternoon [3 January], under the chairmanship of Colonel Mutahhar Mus'id Muslih, Central Committee member and PDRY deputy interior minister, and Colonel Muhammad 'Abdallah Salih, YAR deputy interior minister and member of the Permanent Committee.

At the beginning of the meeting, brother Col Muhammad 'Abdallah Salih welcomed the brother chairman and members of the side of the southern part in the Joint Security Committee. He pointed to the importance of what the committee was charged with, saying that it required perseverance from all until the supreme goal of the Yemeni people was achieved.

Brother Col Mutahhar Mus'id Muslih stressed the need to study, facilitate and execute the steps to be taken towards the achievement of unity, particularly inasmuch as it is a single objective. He said the ministries of the interior in the two parts had 2 months to complete this scheme. The committee discussed a number of issues on its agenda.

Further on Romanian Economy Minister's Visit

Meets Industry Minister

JN3101123090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (INA)—Industry and Military Industrialization Minister Husayn Kamil Hasan today met with Victor Stanculescu, Romanian minister of national economy and head of the Romanian side to the Iraqi-Romanian join' committee.

Talks during the meeting dealt with promoting industrial relations between the two countries.

The senior under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization and the Romanian ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Confers With Trade Minister

JN3101163290 Baghdad INA in English 1525 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 31, INA—Mr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade met today Romanian Minister of Economy Victor Stanculescu.

During the meeting, means of cementing relations of economic and trade cooperation were discussed.

Meets Oil Minister

JN0102072490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim today met with Victor Stanculescu, Romanian minister of national economy and head of the Romanian side to the meetings of the Joint Romanian-Iraqi Committee.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral economic and oil ties and ways to bolster them.

Iraqi-SFRY Committee Begins Meetings 31 Jan

JN0102071290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (INA)—Meetings of the 14th session of the Joint Iraqi-SFRY Committee for Economic, Trade, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation began today at the Ministry of Trade.

Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih led the Iraqi side to the talks while Bozo Marendic, SFRY minister of planning and development [name and title as received] led the SFRY side.

During its meetings the committee will discuss a number of issues concerning what has been implemented regarding agreements signed during the 13th session. It also will discuss bilateral trade, economic, and scientific cooperation and ways to enhance it.

The Iraqi side to the talks included representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Housing and Reconstruction, Trade, Industry and Military Industrialization, Agriculture and Irrigation, Oil, Planning, Transport and Communications, Finance, and Higher and Education and Scientific Research.

The SFRY side to the talks included representatives of counterpart ministries in the SFRY.

President, Ambassadors Review Arab, World Issues

JN3001160090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn this morning conducted a 4-hour meeting with Iraq's ambassadors to fraternal Arab countries.

They reviewed during the meeting Iraq's relations with fraternal Arab countries; ways to strengthen Iraq's ties with them; international developments; world strategic, political, and economic changes; events in socialist East Europe; the impact of these developments and changes on the Arab homeland; and ways to increase Arab influence on international politics to serve the high pan-Arab interests and security.

The president leader instructed the ambassadors to promote Iraq's relations with fraternal Arab countries, bolster Arab solidarity and brotherly relations, and search for more advanced ways to expand joint Arab action to open new areas for the Arab nation to face changes in international strategies and regional policies.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, attended.

Spokesman Refutes 'Hostile' Media 'Lies' on Kurds

JN3101165690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (INA)—A spokesman for the Ministry of Culture and Information has refuted fabricated allegations propagated by media organs hostile to Iraq and the Arab nation on the alleged killing of civilians in Iraq, as mentioned by reports of the so-called Amnesty International.

In a statement to INA this evening, the spokesman said: "We challenge all these suspect media organs to provide us with a single piece of evidence corroborating their allegations, lies, and misleading campaigns whose objectives are well known and whose evil intentions seek to tarnish the reputation of the Arabs and Iraqis."

Conditions for Tripartite Meeting Not 'Ripe'

TA0102063490 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Feb 90, pp 1, 13

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer and Washington-based correspondent Rami Tal]

[Excerpt] The United States in the last 24 hours has increased its efforts to secure a meeting soon between the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Washington.

The U.S. secretary of state last night telephoned Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. They discussed replies the United States had received from Egypt. According to sources close to the Alignment ministers, the replies Egypt relayed to the United States constitute a favorable breakthrough from Israel's viewpoint.

Sources in the foreign minister's office, however, last night said conditions for a tripartite meeting are not yet ripe.

Senior diplomatic sources in Washington, who confirmed yesterday's telephone conversation between the secretary of state and the Israeli foreign minister, also said they know nothing about an invitation extended to Arens for a meeting with Baker—either in Washington or Europe.

The sources added in their opinion, the chances of such a meeting before Baker's return from Moscow are very slight.

This view contradicts with the assessment the Alignment ministers made before the Baker-Arens telephone conversation that the foreign ministers' meeting will take place at the first of next week. These same ministers knew in advance Baker and Arens were going to talk by telephone.

It appears in recent days several political moves have been coordinated between the offices of Alignment ministers, U.S. Administration figures, and Egypt. It has been learned the PLO has given a "green light" for the composition of a delegation acceptable to Israel, and Egypt or members of the Palestinian delegation will declare its makeup.

Shamir To Allow Only 1 Vote in Likud Meeting

TA3101184190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this evening only one vote will be conducted at the Likud Central Committee meeting, and it will be on his address. All other proposals will be deferred to subsequent Central Committee meetings. Anyone opposing the motion to endorse his speech, Shamir said, will have to draw the necessary conclusions. Shamir made the above statement to members of the Likud Central Committee, whom he met this evening as part of the series of meetings he has been conducting the past few days in preparation for the Central Committee session.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz says the prime minister's announcement is unacceptable to Minister Sharon, who has announced on several occasions during the past few days he will move for a vote on several draft proposals that already had been submitted to him.

Arens May Visit U.S. Before Likud Session

TA3101164790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Keeping his promise from Sunday, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres today briefed the Inner Cabinet on his talks with President Mubarak in Cairo. Peres reported on a series of questions and clarifications concerning a number of issues.

On the issue of the Palestinian delegation, both sides agreed two deportees should be included in it. The idea of double residence was raised concerning East Jerusalem residents. One topic that remained unresolved is the question of who will announce the composition of the Palestinian delegation. It was reported during the past week Egypt has been trying to convince the PLO to give up the announcement. In return, Peres is ready to allow the delegation members to consult with whomever they choose. Once the go-ahead from 'Arafat is given, Mubarak will notify the United States, Peres reported.

It was further reported Secretary of State Baker is interested in convening the foreign ministers' tripartite meeting next Sunday. This declaration angered the constraints ministers. Minister Ari'el Sharon asked Shamir: Is Arens leaving, or is he not? I want to know. It should be added at this point Minister Arens was absent from the meeting. Ari'el Sharon continued: We must stop the idea of elections right now. We have disarmed ourselves. I do not want this seed to become a fetus. Moshe Shahal replied: It is a baby already.

Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i asked Shamir: Who authorized the text of the reply to Baker concerning the assurances?
Shamir: These merely were exchanges of formulas.
Moda'i: Between whom?
Shamir: Between Israel and the United States.
Moda'i: The government position is a single text; any addition would be a diversion.
Shamir: This is not necessarily true.
Moda'i: I feel we do not know things we should know.

Here the third of the constraints minister, David Levi, joins the discussion. Mr Prime Minister, he says, I trusted you as prime minister. Why do you not spare us the whole matter and put the issue up for decision and ratification? Yitzhaq Moda'i returns to the previous issue and asks Shamir: Will Minister Arens go to Washington before the Likud Central Committee convenes? Shamir replies: Arens so far has not received an official

invitation to come to Washington. If he is invited for a clarification of positions, however, why should he not go before the Likud Central Committee session?

After Peres delivered his report, Minister Sharon said Mubarak is a dictator. Ministers Ya'aqobi and Shahal objected to this term, and Shahal said: There was a time when Ceausescu was called a leader here; now Mubarak is called a dictator. Shahal also addressed Sharon, saying he was the one to allow deportees to return in the past. Peres added to that, saying there is no government resolution concerning deportees.

It should be noted the whole discussion lasted only 40 minutes. Prime Minister Shamir concluded it by saying: We have not yet received a U.S. reply to the clarifications we asked for, and we still do not know what the Egyptians were promised. Once we get the U.S. replies, the Inner Cabinet will convene, discuss the issue, and reach resolutions.

Sharon Claims Shamir Deceived Religious Parties

TA3101174590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon has said only a strong man could put the Likud in order. According to him, the severe remarks he recently made against Minister Arens came after a long restraint period. Appearing before students in Jerusalem, he asserted Shim'on Peres cannot form a narrow-based government today. Shamir can, but does not because the religious parties are angry at him for deceiving them after the last elections. This was reported by our correspondent Rafi Shalhin.

Objections to Approved Settlement Removed

TA0102114090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Feb 90 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] A new settlement called Dugit will be established in the Gaza Strip by March 1990. This was learned from a plan and detailed schedule that reached HA'ARETZ.

Representatives of the Defense Ministry, the Jewish Agency, the government coordinator in the territories, senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] figures, settler leaders, security elements, police officials, and representatives of Civil Defense Headquarters last week toured the site designated for Dugit.

A time schedule was established after the tour specifying that IDF representatives, the government coordinator in the territories, the Defense Ministry, Gush Qatif settlers, the Jewish Agency, and other elements will discuss the final establishment of Dugit on 19 February.

The same elements immediately afterward will conduct another discussion and the Defense Ministry, the police, and the IDF will give final approval of the plans and administrative issues. Final approval for establishing the settlement will be obtained at the end of February.

Mobile homes will be brought to the site in March and April, and by the end of April, 15 families will be settled in Dugit. A beach strip adjacent to the settlement also will be cleared, allowing the settlers income from tourism.

HA'ARETZ has learned settler leaders have exerted heavy pressure to secure the settlement by Passover [9 April].

Dugit, the 16th settlement in the Gaza Strip, will border the Ele Sinay settlement.

Defense establishment sources have said although the plan for Dugit had been approved by the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs, the defense establishment so far has opposed it. This objection now has been removed and the process of establishment accelerated.

Elements in Gush Qatif declined comment on the time schedule for establishing Dugit, fearing this would foil the process. Settler leaders fear the Defense Ministry again may halt the project.

Constraints Ministers To Submit Draft Resolutions

TA3101130690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] The Likud's constraints ministers decided today to submit four draft resolutions dealing with political issues, economic issues, the problem of the development towns, and the question of immigration at next week's Likud Central Committee convention.

The constraints ministers are willing to conduct a vote of confidence in the prime minister, independent of the vote on the draft resolutions.

Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports the constraints ministers decided to object firmly to the proposal that the Likud secretariat discuss voting modalities. Now that their meeting is over, it is clear, as expected, their dispute with the prime minister persists.

[In a related report, Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 31 January notes Minister Ari'el Sharon "already has sent out the invitations to Likud Central Committee members for next week's scheduled convention," specifying an agenda decided on by the "constraints ministers."]

Rabin on Deportation of Arabs From Territories

TA3101145190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, accompanied by Mayor Teddy Kollek, now is visiting Jerusalem's Town Tower Museum. He has consented to speak with reporters on some of the most burning issues. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad was among the reporters:

[Begin recording] [Nehmad] There is a difference between deporting and not allowing foreign visitors, who arrive as tourists, to remain here, said the defense minister, referring to reports about the new policy of deportations.

Deportation is implemented in the case of residents of the territories, he said; the treatment of visitors who come as tourists from various Arab countries is different. Some of them attempted to stay here without a permit; Rabin said there was room for a more sensitive approach to them—and this is how things henceforth are going to be done.

[Rabin] Our policy does not imply anyone coming here can stay without a permit and without asking the authorities for a permit. We will deal with these cases, however, with more sensitivity and tact. Just think of it: Would the United States allow a person who arrived as a tourist on a time-limited visa to stay after his visa expired? We do not take automatic steps; we act only after issuing a warning and examining the case, and after a waiting period. Despite this, I grant that there has been an incident or two which should not have happened.

[Nehmad] We will not allow any visitor who is a resident of an Arab country to stay in Israel without a permit, but the policy—Rabin said—has not changed. He added he merely has frozen the former policy. Rabin proceeded to attack those who believe the intifadah's hard-core leadership can be eliminated.

[Rabin] There are some Israeli politicians who believe if about 50 hard-core activists—mainly in East Jerusalem—are arrested, the uprising will be halted. Fiddlesticks! The central problem today is the widespread deployment of those hard-core activists. Our success in decreasing their activity—mainly the violence toward both Israelis and Palestinians—in a given district lies is directly proportional to our success in detaining the hard-core elements in that district. I regret to say their reserves are replenished as fast as we remove them from the scene. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rabin on 'Armchair Personalities,' VOA Project

TA0102120390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Feb 90 p 2

[By Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee on Monday that the connection between intifada activists in the territories and "armchair personalities like Faysal al-Husayni or Sari Nusaybah should be seen in its proper perspective."

Rabin said that "the influence of figures like these on hostile activity is only marginal. They are incapable of bringing about a lull in violence, but they also lack the power to push hostilities to a new peak. They do not order operations to be carried out against us and they do not set priorities for the popular committees that guide the intifada.

"It is true that the Israeli public regards al-Husayni and Nusaybah key figures in the Palestinian community, and that the foreign media are always going to interview them, but all that does not mean they exert influence or control over their fellow-Palestinians."

On another issue, the minister said that the U.S. administration "still insists" the Voice of America relay station be built in the 'Arava, despite political changes inside the Communist bloc.

"It is true the station could interfere with Israel Air Force flights, but we have an agreement with the Americans and we have to respect it," he said.

MA'ARIV Views Rabin's Efforts on Peace Process

TA2601162090 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Jan 90 p E3

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "Rabin Puts a Question Mark"]

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was mentioned this week in connection with an initiative to budge the peace process "coordinated" with his colleague, Finance Minister Shim'on Peres.

The latter said if the initiative were rejected, they both would "take joint action to disband the government," but Rabin has dissociated himself from such intentions.

At least in that respect, there is no coordination between Rabin and Peres. According to religious Cabinet ministers, the vice prime minister wants to disband the government. In contrast, Rabin admits: "I am looking for solutions that take the Likud into consideration, or else I would find easier solutions."

Rabin says, "I have done everything on my own initiative," trying to make it clear he did not coordinate anything with anyone—either with Peres or Shamir.

It is hard to tell how things will develop and whether they will culminate in a government crisis. This does not depend on what Rabin did or did not tell Baker, considering the fact "the other side"—namely, President Mubarak, to whom Peres was meant to explain Rabin's proposals—is not certain to embrace Rabin's ideas. Mubarak no doubt will not give a positive response unless his protege, the PLO, accepts them. If the PLO rejects the proposals—which Rabin terms as "the minimum, without which there is nothing to talk about"—there will be no grounds for a government crisis.

Addressing the Inner Cabinet session about his proposals, Rabin said he had been speaking out loud in his talk with Baker. What are the "Rabin proposals" all about?

Rabin's close associates believe he formulated his "questions" when he realized the fate of Israel's peace initiative would hinge on one issue: Is there a chance of forming a delegation from among the inhabitants of the territories with which it will be possible to start a dialogue on the political process?

Rabin still adheres to the principle there is no room for negotiations with the PLO as an entity, because it advocates establishing a Palestinian state and talks about the right of return. "Therefore, there is nothing to talk about with it," he says. But to budge the peace process, he has no objection to including one or two deportees in the Palestinian delegation "on condition the men are not members of any PLO institution and are not involved in terrorism."

He has no objection either to including an Arab inhabitant of East Jerusalem in such a delegation, on condition he has a permanent place of residence outside the city. "There is this Israeli farmer who owns an apartment in Jerusalem, but that does not make him a Jerusalemite (everybody knows he is speaking of Ari'el Sharon). So, there will be a similar person on the other side as well...."

Up to this point it seems there is nothing new in Rabin's proposals. So what did he tell the U.S. secretary of state that was new?

We must tackle the main problem, he told Baker, which is: How to draft a list of Palestinians for talks with Israel.

Under no circumstances whatsoever is Rabin prepared to have the PLO set up the delegation, thus rejecting the PLO demand included in the "appendix" of the Egyptian answer to Baker's document which says: "The PLO is the one entitled to set up the delegation of Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied lands."

Rabin's "news" is Egypt would be the one to set up the Palestinian delegation.

People may wonder: Is it not clear in such a case the list actually would be drafted by the PLO?

First, Rabin will counter, the PLO does not appear formally as a side in and a partner to the negotiations. Second, and more to the point, we will not agree to include just any name in the list. Rabin also told Baker: I am not interested in "glamorous names." Interestingly enough, the name that comes immediately to mind is Faysal al-Husayni, whose participation in the Palestinian delegation is sort of self-evident. Baker already knows, and so do the Egyptians, the names of the people Rabin does not want to see included in the list under any circumstances. Issues which have not yet been brought to the public's attention were raised in the session with Baker, but the defense minister does not think there is any sense in discussing them, not even in the Inner Cabinet. "First of all, we must know whether there is anyone to talk to," he says.

Baker did not grant all the assurances requested by Israel. Rabin hence tried to invent his own "assurances": The Palestinian delegation will not be formed by the PLO and not just any "deportee" will be included in it.

What next?

Rabin's answer: The ball is not in our court now, but in Egypt's....

Is it indeed in Egypt's court? Perhaps it is in Peres' who, before his departure for Egypt, was pleased to tell Rabin he "had a narrow-based government in hand?"

Perhaps, but it is not certain.

As it depends on Rabin, he will not let his proposals be taken advantage of to bring down the government before he has exhausted his dialogue with Shamir. He does not believe in the ability of a narrow-based government to make peace.

When he was told this week there had been reports in the press Peres is trying to bring down the government and replace it with a narrow-based one, and that Peres had said "Yitzhaq is going along with me," Rabin retorted: "I am surprised the man who saw fit to publish such a report did not see fit to check with me."

But being an astute politician, Peres knows how to steer Rabin's proposals in the direction he wants them. Peres established a political fact the moment he presented Rabin's proposals to Mubarak not as a "question" posed to Baker, but as an Israeli position, even if he made it clear to him it was not a Cabinet resolution. The ball now is no longer in Mubarak's court, but in that of Yitzhaq Shamir. Does the government crisis of all times lie in store after 7 February, the day of the Likud Central Committee convention, when even Yitzhaq Rabin might get drawn into the whirlwind started by Peres?

Rabin's "questions" have put a question over the government's survival, which would seem to hinge on one point: Is Peres' statement he has "a narrow-based government in hand" a myth or reality?

Al-Husayni Comments on Soviet Jewish Immigration

TA3101135290 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Jan 90 p A8

[Report by Jerusalem correspondent Lili Galili]

[Excerpts] "The problem of immigration to Israel will not be solved at the expense of the Palestinians for a second time. Considering immigration from the Soviet Union, only 50 percent of this issue is a question of human rights. Having closed its gates, the United States is responsible for the remaining 50 percent, in terms of the right to choose a place of residence. Those who will come to Israel will not settle on the Arab land on which we intend to solve the problem of our refugees and our exiled people," Faysal al-Husayni stated last night in a symposium conducted at the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni went on to say a Palestinian state designed only for the inhabitants of the territories and not for the exiled refugees would solve nothing. The latter still would feel their problem had not been solved and would go on looking for a homeland in Ramla, Lod, and Haifa. According to Al-Husayni, such a situation would confront the inhabitants of the Palestinian state in the territories with the dilemma of fighting alongside their brethren or against them. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Denies Meeting Cabinet Ministers

TA2601162890 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 25 Jan 90 pp 1, 11

[Exclusive to AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Jerusalem—Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Arab Studies Society in Jerusalem, has denied a report in an Israeli newspaper claiming he recently met separately with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Finance Minister and Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres, and Science Minister 'Ezer Weizman to discuss possible implementation of the Israeli initiative and to acquaint them with the thinking of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

In another development, informed sources said U.S. diplomats met with a number of Israeli ministers to find out which Palestinian personalities can be selected as members in the proposed Palestinian delegation.

A list containing the names of Palestinians who met with Israeli ministers was relayed to the U.S. Secretary of State Baker to help form a list of candidates to the Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel.

A responsible political Israeli source said the Israeli political leadership, Yitzhaq Shamir, and a number of ministers had been aware for weeks of the investigation conducted by the security services against Al-Husayni. The source added the same ministers knew of Al-Husayni's detention order at least 2 days before he was taken to court.

Despite this, according to the source, the Israeli politicians preferred not to intervene and allowed the measures against Al-Husayni.

4,600 Soviet Jews Arrived in Jan

TA3101175790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] This month 4,700 Jews left the USSR, and almost all of them—some 4,600—arrived in Israel. Another 200 immigrants are expected to arrive tonight from Budapest.

Uri Gordon, head of the Jewish Agency Aliyah Department, today said the delay in operating direct flights from the USSR to Israel is holding back thousands of Jews who wish to leave and have waiting for more than a year.

Our correspondent has learned last week the Soviets prevented Jewish immigrants from boarding an Aeroflot flight that had left for Lod airport to return a Soviet troop to Moscow.

FRG Newspaper Report 'Riddled With Inaccuracies'

TA3101184490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Excerpt] The Prime Minister's Office has charged that the report in a West German newspaper about an acrimonious exchange of letters between Prime Minister Shamir and Chancellor Helmut Kohl is riddled with inaccuracies. [passage omitted] Jack Katzenell reports:

The Prime Minister's Office says the exchange of letters took place about 2 months ago. [passage omitted] The prime minister's spokesman said today that the paper's account of the correspondence is riddled with inaccuracies, but when I asked him what the inaccuracies were, he would not say. However, a diplomatic source told me this evening this could be because letters are confidential and the Prime Minister's Office is not at liberty to publish them.

Talks With GDR on Ties Continue in Copenhagen

TA0102061590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Talks are being conducted on Israel's relations with the GDR, but there have been no developments.

Israeli and GDR representatives ended 3 days of talks last night in Copenhagen. They made no decisions and set no date for continuing the talks. Both delegations imposed a blackout on the talks' details, admitting only the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations had been discussed. Our correspondent Eliyahu Zehavi reports from Copenhagen:

[Begin recording] True to the atmosphere of glasnost, the East German Embassy in Copenhagen yesterday opened its gates to dozens of journalists who wanted to meet Ambassador Reiner Neumann, head of the GDR Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department. This openness contrasted conspicuously with the thick veil of secrecy Israel imposed on the content of the talks conducted in Copenhagen during the last 3 days between GDR Ambassador Reiner Neumann and Mikha'el Shilo, head of the Israeli delegation.

Although he would not disclose any substantive detail about the talks' content, Ambassador Neumann said they had contributed to understanding between the delegations and noted the talks would continue. The East German ambassador elegantly evaded all questions posed by journalists by explaining the Israeli and GDR delegations had decided unanimously not to disclose any substantive details about the talks. It remained unclear who demanded a blackout.

A few hours after the news conference at the East German Embassy, the Israeli Embassy in Copenhagen issued a brief communique stating the purpose of the talks had been to clarify issues pertaining to establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries. Israel advocates the existence of political relations with all countries, regardless of their regimes. But as far as East Germany is concerned, there are difficulties understood by anyone familiar with the history of the 20th century. The Israeli communique also noted the talks would continue, but did not specify a date for the second round. [end recording]

Hamas Criticizes Treatment of Soviet Muslims

JN2701113590 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] The Hamas [Islamic Resistance] movement has expressed indignation over what it called the slaughter and torture of Muslims in the Soviet Union.

In a statement distributed in the Ramallah area, Hamas criticized the leftist Palestinian organizations and talked about the presence of an ideological gap between Communism and Islam.

Hamas' statement called on the activists of leftist organizations in the territories to admit their mistakes in the wake of the East European developments.

Hamas Wins Gaza Engineers Association Elections

TA2601185490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] won today's elections to the Engineering Association in Gaza. The Islamic bloc made up of its supporters won five of the association council's nine seats, while the pro-PLO nationalist bloc won three seats. The ninth representative is independent.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports 31 engineers presented their candidacy. The association has not yet chosen a chairman; Hamas and the independent representative are competing for this position. Hatim Abu-Sha'ban, departing pro-PLO chairman, did not run. Hamas sustained a devastating defeat in last week's elections to the Physicians Association in Gaza.

Magnetic Exit Permit Plan Set for 1 Mar in Janin

TA2801093390 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Jan 90 pp A1, 2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] An operation to distribute magnetic exit permits will begin 1 March in Judaea and Samaria.

The experimental campaign at this stage only will cover Janin District, where some 100,000 people live.

Senior defense sources said Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin postponed starting the campaign, which was to begin on 10 February. This is not the first time the defense minister has rejected a request by Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Central Command, to conduct the operation. Rabin has great doubts about the need for the magnetic cards and is worried about the campaign's negative repercussions, the sources said. They believe there will be an additional delay beyond the date set.

Gen Mordekhay, who initiated a similar campaign in the Gaza Strip when he was commander of the Southern Command, has been calling for introducing magnetic cards since he took over his current post, but the defense minister and the chief of staff repeatedly rejected his requests. Nevertheless, the Central Command recently began hectic preparations to start distributing the documents and has even bought special equipment. The cost of the entire campaign is estimated at about $8 million.

The defense minister is concerned the move will harm the political process, but has authorized Gen Mordekhay to begin the campaign at this stage in Janin.

15 Inter-Arab Murders in Jan; 151 During Uprising

TA0102103090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Fifteen Arab residents were murdered in January by other Arabs on suspicion of collaborating with Israel or for other reasons.

Eight of them were murdered in the Gaza Strip, five in Judaea and Samaria, and two residents of the territories were murdered within the Green Line. Our military affairs correspondent reports since the start of the uprising, 151 Arabs have been murdered by Arabs.

General Strike, Injuries, Curfews in Territories

TA3101194490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A general strike was staged in the territories today, called for by the Unified Leadership of the Uprising in support of the PLO.

The army is investigating reports from Janin hospital that a Qabatiyah resident was wounded by army fire during a clash today. The army confirmed that a Janin youth was wounded by rubber bullets, and a youth from 'Awarta, near Nabulus, was wounded in a clash with soldiers. The army spokesman said both youths were throwing stones.

The village of Abu-Dis, near Jerusalem, remains under curfew. Palestinian sources say at least 14 residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip were injured in clashes today. The army in Gaza confirmed isolated clashes, but gave no casualty figures.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1830 GMT on 31 January adds: "Brigadier General Arye Ramot, head of the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip, today addressed the serious situation existing in schools of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in the Gaza Strip in a conversation he held with with the UNRWA's education administration officers in Gaza. Brig Gen Ramot noted that many UNRWA schools are involved in riots and asked the officers to make an effort to prevent violence in these schools and roads in their vicinity. The UNRWA officers replied that they are doing the best they can to prevent disturbances in those schools."]

Rafah Arab Murdered; 30 Jan Events Detailed

TA3101151890

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 31 January, in a page A2 report by Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin, says "according to Palestinian sources, 11 Gaza Strip residents were injured in yesterday's clashes. The sources also reported disturbances in several Gaza neighborhoods and in Rafah, Khan Yunus, Jabalyah, al-Shati', and al-Mughazi refugee camps." The report adds "two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were injured yesterday in stoning incidents in the Strip." One of the soldiers was sent home after receiving medical treatment, while "the other, Mikha'el Alashvili, who suffered eye injuries from glass shards, was admitted to Ashqelon Hospital."

The report further states UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] yesterday completed fencing off a boys school in the al-Jalazun refugee camp near Ramallah as protection against stones thrown from the school. The Civil Administration following that permitted the school be reopened. According to an agreement with UNRWA, the latter will cover the expense of fencing off several West Bank schools."

The report adds "the curfews in the villages of Abu-Dis and al-'Ayzariyah remained in force."

It further is stated "Palestinian sources reported three residents were wounded yesterday in the Hebron area. Two were injured by plastic bullets in Hebron, while the third was wounded in Halhul."

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 31 January, in a page 10 report by Joel Greenberg, reports: "Jewish settlers in Hebron retaliated yesterday for stone throwing by Arabs at their cars by smashing windows of Arab homes and vehicles and firing shots in the air, according to reports from the town. Military sources confirmed the incident." The report adds: "A 17-year-old youth, Muhammad Abu-Zaynah, was beaten and taken by the settlers, apparently to military government headquarters, according to these accounts. The IDF had no information of the alleged kidnapping." According to the report, the sealing by the IDF of two homes "sparked unrest in Nabulus. Schoolchildren, including pupils at schools near one of the homes, left classes and took to the streets, setting up barricades, burning tyres, and stoning troops. Palestinians reported that a soldier was wounded in the leg by a rock in the casbah, and evacuated by his colleagues." "Also in Nabulus, a one-and-a-half year-old infant from Ginnot Shomron suffered superficial cuts when a rock shattered a window of a car from the settlement. The infant was treated at an army clinic and released."

Another JERUSALEM POST report on page 10 by Robert Rees adds "an 18-year-old Silwan woman carrying a petrol bomb inside her handbag was arrested yesterday afternoon while attempting to pass through the Civil Defense checkpoint at Hagay Street tunnel adjacent to the Western Wall plaza."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew, in a report by Oren Kohen, Mikhal Qedem, and Doron Me'iri, writes on page 6 "sources in the Gaza Strip reported Aman Dahlan, 12, of Khan Yunus lost an eye after he was injured by a metal bullet."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew, in a page A8 pool report, states "hundreds of detainees at the Qezi'ot prison in the Negev yesterday launched a hunger strike, which ended that same evening." It adds "a molotov cocktail was hurled last night at an Israeli car at the entrance to the Mevo Shilo settlement."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 31 January reports "in the Rafah refugee camp, masked individuals last night stabbed to death a 35-year-old car driver. Arab residents believed the man was murdered because he was suspected of aiding the authorities."

Update on Palestinian Fatalities in Territories

TA3101130190 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 31 Jan 90 p 6

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman on Monday, 29 January reported 555 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. The figure includes only those killed by soldiers' gunfire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian fatalities is 706.

On the other hand, the Palestinian Data Center for Human Rights reports 856 fatalities, according to the following breakdown:

—624 fatalities from IDF soldiers' and settlers' gunfire.

— 57 fatalities from beatings and electrocution.

— 82 fatalities from asphyxiation.

— 93 fatalities from other causes.

There would seem to be an increase in the number of Palestinians killed on suspicion of collaborating with the authorities. In the past week, eight Palestinians were killed in the occupied territories, including five who were killed on suspicion of collaborating with the Shin Bet.

AL-FAJR Correspondent Arrested in Qalqilyah

TA2801190490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] An AL-FAJR correspondent was arrested this afternoon in Qalqilyah. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports the security forces arrested (Na'im Su'alim) in his home. Military sources confirmed the arrest, but refused to provide further details.

One Killed by Border Police in Abu-Dis

TA2701182990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] A young man was killed this afternoon by Border Police gunfire in Abu-Dis, north of Jerusalem. According to local residents, another person was killed, but this has not been confirmed by official sources. Our correspondent Arye Gus says, according to initial reports, the incident occurred when a large procession was dispersed. The young man's funeral was this afternoon.

Syrian-Palestinian Meetings in Amman 'Promising'

JN0102110690 Amman THE STAR in English 1-7 Feb 90 p 2

[From "On the Record" column]

[Text] THE STAR has learned that Syrian-Palestinian meetings were held in Amman during the Syrian Prime Minister's visit to Jordan.

Sources said a meeting was held between the Ambassador of Palestine to Jordan al-Tayyeb 'Abd-al-Rahim Mahmud and the Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

They said the outcome of the meetings was promising. As a result, an improvement is expected in Syrian-Palestinian relations and a meeting could be held in the next few weeks between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and the Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Al-Qasim Urges Unified Stand on Soviet Jews

LD3101120190 Kuwait KUNA in English 0958 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 31 (KUNA)—Jordanian Deputy Premier and Foreign Miniser Marwan al-Qasim has said that the immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union to Israel should be dealt with very seriously and urged for a unified Arab position toward that problem.

In an interview with daily "AL-QABAS" newspaper Al-Qasim said contacts are under way with Moscow and more contacts among countries are going to take place to decide how to deal with this dangerous subject.

The Jordanian top official called for serious preparations for any Arab meeting due to discuss important topics facing the Arab world, including the Palestinian crisis, the Lebanese ordeal, the situation between Iran and Iraq and the Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel as well as the Arab world needs of [word indistinct] the over the next decade.

He described the Syrian-Jordanian talks concluded in Amman yesterday by the prime ministers of both countries as positive.

He emphasized that the two countries are keen to keep Jordan and Syria in a position that does not give a pretext for anybody to cause instability for them.

Superpower Warnings May Mean Israeli Isolation

JN3101164990 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Jan 90 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The Soviet Response and the American Overture"]

[Text] Although the Soviet warning conveyed to Israel by the Soviet first deputy foreign minister does not meet Arab and Palestinian demands to the friendly Soviet Union, it is a good initial response and indicates existence of an objective Soviet decision to make a methodical revision of its policy on the emigration of Soviet Jews.

The other warning, from Washington, about settling the Soviet immigrants in the occupied Palestinian territories also is evidence of the fact other countries in the world, including the two superpowers, are focusing their attention on the dangers of this immigration, which Zionist extremists see as a new development favoring their retention and expansion of the occupied land at the expense of the Arabs for establishing Greater Israel.

There is no doubt the existence of this slight convergence in the positions of Moscow and Washington over the settling Soviet immigrants in the occupied territories should satisfy everyone who has warned of the repercussions of this immigration on the faltering peace process in the region and every one who has drawn attention to Israel's expansionism, which has escalated and become clearer with the arrival of the first batch of these immigrants.

We hence view the coincidence of the American and Soviet warnings as a sign of a possible coordinated international effort involving the two superpowers to further isolate the expansionist and terroristic Israeli policies, draw the attention of Shamir's government to the international community's will, and enforce the UN resolutions, including Security Council Resolution No 242 on the inadmissibility of acquiring the land of others by force.

The explicit warnings to Yitzhaq Shamir's government by Moscow and Washington against settling Soviet Jews in the occupied Palestinian territories should not be a source of reassurance regarding the final stand of either one. On the contrary, these warnings should lead to expansion of the scope of Arab moves and contacts with all the capitals concerned to prevent these immigrants from reaching the place where Israeli leaders want them, an objective for which the Jewish Agency and the Jewish organizations in and outside the United States are working.

USSR Envoy on Emigration, Peace Conference

JN2801101890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Jan 90 p 4

[By Wafa 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—Nabil 'Amr, representative of the state of Palestine in Moscow, has said the new situation in the USSR places the Arabs and Palestinians before a challenge they must face through practical means. They otherwise would lose an important arena in which peoples' destinies are shaped, 'Amr added.

'Amr said in an interview with AL-DUSTUR that the USSR is inviting the Arabs to maintain presence on its territory and among its people, to work on all levels, and

to contribute to the economic openness in the USSR. He urged them not to depend on the so-called "principled traditional ties", the maintenance of which was possible when the relationship with the USSR was an easy one.

'Amr added this challenge has taken the form of new political steps by the USSR based on new calculations, a remarkable departure from previous stands. There now are Soviet newspaper articles criticizing specific Arab stands, 'Amr said. 'Amr concluded: "Therefore, we must be there. We must be part of the Soviet calculations contributing to forming political stands." He added certainly there are opportunities for foreign investment in the USSR. He went on to say: There is no doubt Israel will get there through this door. We aspire to see the Arabs understand the importance of their economic involvement regarding this. The opportunities are there for all to seize. We should not forget the axiom regarding the economy's impact on politics.

'Amr said the transformations in the USSR linked to perestroyka are at initial stages. To predict the final results of this process therefore appears impossible in the short run, he added. He went on to say: We safely can say the USSR was the first to propose and launch changes concerning existing party structures; and this is different from changes in Eastern Europe, because the East European people led their change; the change there was uncontrollable.

In another interview with AL-DUSTUR, Aleksandr Zinchuk said the USSR will continue pursuing a socialist ideology providing for government ownership of land and production and for giving more incentives for production. Zinchuk added: "We do not adhere to the rigid policy. We seek to make this rigid policy more flexible." In some fields, we seek to attain efficiency based on socialism, Zinchuk said.

The Soviet ambassador said the Soviet people are different from West Europeans because Soviet society, built on socialism, cannot advocate capitalism. But the Soviet ambassador also said the Soviets have not applied socialism as Lenin envisaged.

Regarding new developments in the Soviet policy toward the Middle East and the Palestinian question, 'Amr said the USSR has changed the theory by which Soviet foreign policy was formed. He added the new theory regarding this provided for isolating ideology from politics and for replacing the balance of power concept by the balance of interests. He added: Based on this new theory, the USSR began adopting new stands on regional issues, including the Middle East conflict. The Soviet stand toward the Middle East is based on Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian state, as well as Israel's right to exist within secure and recognized borders.

'Amr added the Soviet Union believes the major framework for a solution is through an internatioal conference, with participation of all the conflict's concerned parties and Security Council member states.

He explained the Soviet Union considers the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue part preparatory to the international conference. The Soviet Union also calls on all parties to establish a dialogue among them, so everyone can reach the international conference after overcoming many obstacles. 'Amr asserted the Soviet Union will not abandon the idea of an international conference; it does not, however, insist the solution process start with the international conference. The Soviet Union moreover believes a solution cannot be attained or established unless it is adopted by the international conference. I think the United States is getting closer to this idea, 'Amr added.

On the same issue, the Soviet ambassador said the Soviet Union welcomes any steps that might lead to a comprehensive solution in the Middle East. He further explained his country does not rule out any way that might lead to a solution to the Palestine question. This, of course, covers the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. The Soviet Union does not view the international conference as an ultimate end in itself; rather, it is the best means to reach a just and comprehensive solution.

The Soviet ambassador explained if the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue leads to the desired solution, the Soviet Union will bypass [yaqfiz fawqa] the international conference. The Soviet Union will not rule out any new, practical way if it leads to a comprehensive solution; for example, direct negotiations between concerned parties.

Zinchuk asserted the Soviet stand welcomes the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue provided the PLO is represented and that it leads to a just, comprehensive solution.

On the need for a Soviet role in the peace process, 'Amr said it is difficult to ignore the Soviet Union as a superpower when attempting to settle any regional issue. The Soviet role in the Middle East, therefore, is not contingent absolutely on U.S. and Israeli approval. The current international climate, however, allows the Soviet Union to play an effective role. Even Israel will find it hard to object to the Soviet Union's proposals on a Middle East solution. The Americans and Soviets have agreed to cooperate to settle the world's hotbeds, 'Amr added. This does not mean, however, the two parties are capable of imposing instant solutions, because the nature of international detente enables local forces to influence the shape and core of solutions regarding regional problems. For example, the Palestinian official said, the United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to put an end to the Afghanistan situation, and accords were signed to this effect in Geneva. That accord, however, was not a magical solution; the situation in Afghanistan still is disturbed. The strong tendency toward accord, reinforced in the Malta meeting, did not prevent the

United States from invading Panama, he added. We have to realize international detente will influence the course of regional issues; however, its effects are not, as some of us might believe, automatic and decisive.

On Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and East European countries, 'Amr said this topic is sensitive and crucial, and the PLO is tackling it through the political channels between it and the Soviets, taking into account there are new Soviet laws governing all Soviet citizens, including the Jews; laws which allow citizens to leave the Soviet Union for wherever they wish.

The Soviet ambassador affirmed his country has eased emigration restrictions, which has led to the emigration of a large number of Jews, particularly during this year. He added statistics show Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union used to leave for the United States and Europe, with only 10 percent of emigrants going to Israel. The United States, however, has started to impose restrictions on Jewish immigration, and the Soviet Union, in its turn, cannot control this emigration or determine the destination of the emigrants. He added the Soviet laws on emigration apply to all the citizens.

Zinchuk said Arab apprehensions about Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to Israel are exaggerated and said he believes Soviet Jews do not look forward to confronting Palestinian Arabs, or facing the economic difficulties Israel experiences. He added the immigrants will seize the first opportunity to leave Israel to live in safer, more secure places.

'Amr believes Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union is a challenge to the Arabs and Palestinians. He said: We believe the issue of immigration according to Shamir's concept requires intensive Arab and international efforts to confront this challenge, taking into consideration Jewish immigrants who will arrive in Israel probably will live in settlements established for them in the occupied territories.

He added this issue poses a big threat to the Arabs, because the majority of people who will leave for Israel will be skilled people, and their major concern will be to boost the Israeli leadership's expansionist inclinations. It is said a large number of the Jews who leave the Soviet Union do not continue their trip to Israel, and only 9 percent of them actually reach there. This is a positive factor. As Arabs, however, we cannot depend on this factor because we have to consider Zionism has huge means to force Jews to go to Israel. These means clearly have become manifest in the issue of the Falashas and now in U.S. restrictions imposed on Jewish immigrants entering the United States. He said the U.S. restrictions are aimed at forcing Jews to Israel.

'Amr warned of the danger this problem poses, saying: We are facing a problem with several intertwined dimensions. We must find an effective Arab means to end this phenomenon and its dangers. We also must mobilize all states and peace-loving forces, especially in Europe, so they can stand against this "destructive development."

The Palestinian official believes the Arabs have enormous resources which, if properly used, largely could alleviate the harm done by Jewish emigration and Israel.

Regarding the PLO's view of changes in the USSR and the East European countries and their impact on the organization, the Palestinian official said: This was the main topic of discussion last week in Tunis among the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian ambassadors to the East European countries. The psychological effect on our view was that those who fell had established a special relationship with the PLO and the Arab states, while those who have taken over are pursuing a new, vague policy toward the PLO and the Middle East situation. A realistic, objective discussion during the Tunis meeting of recent developments and the new Eastern Europe situation, however, has proven whatever doubts we had unfounded. The Palestinian leadership now is convinced the new situation provides fresh prospects for dynamic, effective relations with the new East European officials. It has been established, for instance, that these officials will not go below the usual support they have given to the Palestine question. This has been confirmed repeatedly by several of the new regimes.

The Palestinian official said: Regarding their relations with Israel, the new East European regimes have considered resumption of relations with Israel a significant landmark of recent developments. Most of these states have fallen to Zionist propaganda that the resumption of relations with Israel is the shortest way toward solving their economic problems.

'Amr affirmed once the new regimes define their own policy, they will be able to see the facts as they are and will become immune to such Zionist claims. He said: The negative signs that appeared on the surface of the new changes in Eastern Europe only are transient. They soon will vanish into thin air, especially if we Arabs conduct our policies and relations differently and pursue a course interacting with and influencing all walks of life.

The Palestinian official continued: The changes in Soviet policy have taken a positive course. For instance, we no longer need the meaningless, impractical policies and expressions of strong solidarity we became accustomed to in the past. Today, the Soviet stand is more effective and precise than before.

Badran: Stop Immigration Until Solution Found

JN3101200090 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn visited the Prime Minister's Office this afternoon and met with Prime Minister Mudar Badran. [passage omitted]

At the end of the visit, Prime Minister Badran made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] Sir, yesterday Saudi Arabia called for an Arab summit to discuss the Lebanese crisis. Could we know the Jordanian Government's view?

[Badran] I learned about this matter regarding Lebanon from the news agencies. I believe there have been many important changes. The biggest issue is immigration to the occupied territory. The Jordanian view therefore is there should be discussion of this big problem, which primarily will affect the steadfast, patient, and rebelling Palestinian people. As his majesty said: Where and at whose expense will these numbers go? I look at the future as if there were a new plot against the Palestinian people to displace them for the third time. The world makes claims on human rights, as if human rights were given to one people and not to others.

His excellency the Soviet ambassador came to bid farewell. I clearly said to him Jordan and the Arabs value and appreciate the USSR's great positions and will not forget them during the years.

No Arab individual can ignore the USSR's support for the Palestinian people both in practical and moral terms. We should now make our brothers in the USSR understand, however—and I mentioned this to him—that this immigration will be at the expense of the Palestinian Arab people. He handed me a memorandum from the Soviet deputy foreign minister which asks Israel not to displace the Palestinians and to peacefully resolve the issue. My answer was these words cannot solve this problem. The practical solution to this issue is the USSR curb emigration until after peace is achieved and the UN Security Council Resolution is implemented. Then justice will be achieved—human rights for the immigrants and the Palestinians. But if immigration is accomplished before the solution, I personally believe there will be no solution to this issue at all. [end recording]

Husayn, Badran Discuss Syrians' Visit, Directives

JN3101174290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn visited the prime minister's office this afternoon and met with Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

They discussed the most important issues concerning the homeland and its citizens. Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, attended. Regarding the most important issues His Majesty King Husayn stressed during his visit, Prime Minister Badran said:

[Begin Badran recording] His majesty the king has honored us with a surprise visit to the prime minister's office. Discussions dealt with talks conducted during the last 2 days by the Syrian-Jordanian higher committee. His majesty was reassured about these talks and the spirit of full responsibility shown by his excellency, the Syrian prime minister, toward all topics raised, including joint companies and cooperation, as well as pan-Arab issues. His majesty's royal directives stressed the government should be open fully toward the public on all issues, and the ministers should visit all areas to become acquainted with the real problems facing all the Kingdom's citizens. His majesty also stressed all issues must be taken care of and attempts made to remove all sources of discontent or anxiety among Jordan's citizens.

These royal directives are a source of pride for me and will be as much for every citizen in the Kingdom. [end recording]

Cooperation Accords With Syria Detailed

JN3101123590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee Tuesday concluded a two-day meeting here after reaching agreement to increase cooperation in various fields, with the main focus on agiculture, transport and exchange of expertise.

The committee, co-chaired by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and his Syrian counterpart Mahmud al-Zu'bi, issued a statement outlining the agreements it had reached during the meetings, which were attended by ministers and senior officials from both sides.

Following are highlights of the statement:

The committee reviewed progress achieved in the implementation of resolutions passed by the earlier meetings in Damascus and Amman and decided on the following:

Work of sub-committees

A. It was decided to call the sub-committees to meet and work out recommendations for their programmes for the next three months.

B. A ministerial committee has been charged with studying the reformation of sub-committees with a view to streamlining their work and to present recommendations to the higher committee for approval.

Cooperation in agriculture

The higher committee reviewed with satisfaction progress achieved in coordination and cooperation between the ministries of agriculture of the two countries, especially in the areas of exchanging expertise for producing seeds, saplings, vaccines, and veterinary medicine, as well as steps taken to fend off the danger of locusts. The committee took notice of a study on raising livestock, a project to be carried out at Al-Hammad Basin and to support all measures that can contribute towards increasing towards increasing cooperation in this field. The committee has decided to:

1. Maintain cooperation in these areas;
2. Call for a meeting of the concerned parties in the two countries to provide facilities and guarantees to their respective private sectors to encourage them to launch

investment projects in agriculture that would help ensure food security for the two countries.
3. To place the study on livestock at the disposal of investors from the private sector.
4. To entrust the concerned parties (the ministries of agriculture) in the two countries to prepare a special study on agricultural projects that would be given priority.
5. To call concerned parties to exchange expertise and visits to Jordan and Syria with a view to promoting agricultural development.
6. To call on the ministries of agriculture to exchange information on marketing and export operations using the available means of transport in the two countries.
7. To give priority to each others' agricultural products in imports.
8. To conduct studies designed to launch joint agricultural projects.

Cooperation in transport

1. The committee reviewed agreements concluded by the two countries in Damascus Jan. 10, 1990, concerning transport and transit operations and called on the concerned authorities to implement the agreements.
2. The committee discussed the prospect of increasing the number of railway transport operations.
3. The committee reviewed the work of the joint land transport company and expressed satisfaction with its operations.
4. The committee decided to call a meeting of the sub-committee on transport and transit to study transportation of Syrian goods from the Far East and Australia via al-'Aqabah Port and to ensure the transportation of Jordan-bound goods through Syrian ports.

Electricity

The committee decided to strengthen the linkage of the national grids of the two countries. It decided to continue an exchange of expertise in energy-related fields and to carry out joint training programmes for personnel from the two countries.

Oil and mineral resources

The committee called on the concerned authorities in the two countries to exchange information and expertise in oil and mineral resources and to form a follow up committee.

Irrigation

The committee decided to call a joint Jordanian-Syrian team to implement an agreement signed by the two countries on exploitation of al-Yarmuk River waters.

Industry

The committee decided to entrust the joint industry company to study and launch new ventures which employ local raw materials and to make arrangements for paying the remaining sum of the company's capital.

The committee decided to boost the production capacity of the jointly-owned carpet plant located in Syria and to market its products in other countries.

The committee decided to urge the jointly-owned white cement plant to export its products, to provide facilities to achieve that goal and to provide sufficient white cement to the markets of the two countries. The committee decided that the two countries should increase their exchanges in information and expertise related to industry and industrial investments and to cooperate in specifications and standards.

Trade

The committee decided to take measures designed to increase the volume of bartered goods at all levels. In this respect the two sides decided to prepare lists of national products which can be exchanged and which can be exhibited at their respective trade centres in Damascus and Amman.

In a separate statement, the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, reported that Jordan and Syria agreed to exchange veterinary medicine, vaccines, tree saplings and seeds as well as expertise in promoting livestock wealth in the two countries.

Syrian Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Muhammad Qabbash was quoted as saying by PETRA that the two countries would cooperate in scientific research and training in agriculture fields and Jordan would try to benefit from Syria's expertise in raising goats through an experimental project to be carried out at al-Wala Agricultural Station in southern Jordan.

The minister, speaking after a meeting with his Jordanian counterpart Sulayman 'Arabiyat, told PETRA that Syria and Jordan would soon embark on implementing joint projects in the production of lean meat and dairy products.

Bankers Discuss Decision To Float Interest Rates

JN0102101290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1-2 Feb 90 p 1

[By Salamah Ni'mat, "special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[Text] Amman—The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) said Wednesday its decision to allow commercial banks in the Kingdom to float interest rates on deposits and loans would increase savings and subsequently boost investments, but bankers said they were unsure whether the market would respond in accordance with CBJ expectations and projections.

Deputy CBJ Governor Michel Marto said the move was expected to bring about a "positive interest rate" that covers inflation and encourages people to save with interest on time deposits calculated independently by banks.

"It is all a matter of supply and demand," Marto told the JORDAN TIMES. "Mechanically speaking, it is very good in terms of boosting savings and subsequently investments," he said.

He argued that "when you have more saving, you have more investment with a very small time lag. This is accepted everywhere."

Marto said a higher interest rate would serve as an incentive for people to save in Jordanian dinar rather than in dollars or other currencies if the returns were higher, and achieve a better balance between aggregate demand and aggregate supply in the market.

He ruled out a negative impact of higher borrowing rates because "one or two per cent higher interest on loans will not discourage investors. It is all a question of availability of funds. When people have more funds they invest more."

Marto confirmed reports that the Central Bank's decision came in line with conditions set by the international Monetary Fund (IMF) but said: "We are fully convinced by this move, which we think is good for the economy."

Dr. Khalil Salim, Chairman of the Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan), and a prominent economist, disagreed.

"The impact is noting [as published]," he declared. "I don't think anybody will be affected (by the flotation) in the immediate future because there will be no change in the present situation."

Salim, a member of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate,) explained that as banks start calculating slightly higher interest on deposits and loans, "the margin will remain the same and it will be only slightly better for depositors and slightly worse for borrowers."

Salim told the JORDAN TIMES that the Central Bank was "mainly complying with IMF conditions." He said he had advised the Central Bank against the move because "the core of the problem is the bank rate." He explained that in order for banks to buy money from the Central Bank, the CBJ must set bank rate or a rediscount rate with a two-per-cent margin for deposits and two per cent for loans.

He said that without announcing a bank rate, the Arab Bank, Jordan's largest, "will set the pace either higher if it needs liquidity or lower if not, depending on its needs, and other banks will have to follow."

He warned that "because we do not have many large banks, the small banks will not be able to compete."

Salim, Jordan's first Central Bank governor and a former finance minister, said that the CBJ needs to adopt a system similar to England's Libor inter-bank rate which is a rate agreed between major banks in the country.

"The market must not be left to spurs of the moment," he said.

He argued that a slightly higher interest rate would not encourage people to invest in the dinar as against the British pound which offers over 15 per cent interest or other international currencies such as dollars, deutschemarks or Swiss francs.

"In fact," he added, "higher rates may penalise borrowers and result in handicapping investment by the private sector."

Floating Interest Rates Called 'Positive'

JN0102100490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1-2 Feb 90 p 1

["News Analysis" by Dr Fahd al-Fanik]

[Text] By virtue of the recent amendment to the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Law, the bank has decided to float interest rates on the Jordanian dinar as of Saturday, Feb. 3, 1990. This means that the CBJ will not impose ceilings or floors for interest rates on deposits and credit facilities any more. The determination of interest rates will be left to the commercial banks subject to market forces.

This step will not mean the depositor will have to bargain with the bank manager for the best interest rate. Each bank will announce its rates as applicable to each and every one of them. The difference in the interest rate between one deposit and another will be determined by two factors: The size of the deposit and another will be determined by two factors: the size of the deposit and the duration of the deposit. It is only natural therefore to expect higher rates for bigger deposits and longer terms.

As far as credit facilities are concerned, the banks will announce their base rate which will be applicable to their prime customers such as the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company.

Extra percentage points will be added to reflect the risk evaluation of each borrower, and the variation could be as high as three percentage points.

Under the floating system, there is nothing to prevent variation of interest rates from one bank to another; the bank that is tight for liquidity may offer higher interest rates to depositors, and conversely, the bank that carries excessive liquidity may offer lower rates. But this is not a crucial factor. A large bank with excessive liquidity may still offer the same high rate of interest in order to protect its share in the market and prevent the loss of some of its customers in favour of competitors.

In this respect, it is more likely that some banks will stand out as leaders. If, for example, the Arab Bank or the Housing Bank raised or lowered their own scale of interest rates, other banks might follow suit the next day or the day after.

Under floating, interest rates may rise or fall according to changing circumstances in the country and abroad. Interest rates on the Jordanian dinar will interact with the international markets. It is most likely that interest

rates will tend to rise gradually to match the expected rate of inflation which is around 13 per cent. The interest rate on the dinar under the current circumstances will range between 13 and 15 per cent.

Changing the rate of interest is effective in attracting depositors from one bank to another. But it is less effective on aggregate savings. People do not save more or less because interest rates on their savings become higher or lower. Other factors are more effective in determining domestic savings.

Industrial projects may be affected by higher interest rates but the impact is not crucial. The share of interest in the cost of the final products is on average no more than five per cent. The rise of interest rates by two percentage points will raise the cost of industrial products by one-tenth of one per cent.

The floating of interest rates will improve the allocation of resources towards the best uses with higher return. In addition, it will help in combating capital flight although other factors are more important.

Higher interest rates also are an instrument in checking inflation and reducing consumption, especially of durable goods that are normally acquired by instalments.

We should not give too much thought to whether the liberalisation of interest rates is in line with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme or not. The important thing is that the step is useful for our national economy to secure flexibility and the ability to respond to changing circumstances.

Over the past years, and well before Jordan's recent economic crisis and the adoption of the economic correction programme we have repeatedly called for a floating system like that which was decided upon by the CBJ on Tuesday. It is a positive step therefore that the Central Bank was finally convinced that the floating is good for the national economy.

No surprises should be expected when the floating system becomes operative as of Saturday. The CBJ used to fix interest rates and leave commission to be determined by the banks. The latter used to be calculated and collected with the interest. From now on, however, the CBJ will fix the commission rate and leave interest to be determined by the banks. In both cases the total interest and commission has been and will continue to be flexible or floating. Commissions used to vary between one and three per cent; interest rate may vary in the future in a wider range.

Newspaper Reviews Status of Muslim Brotherhood

JN3001110090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Jan 90 pp 1, 3

[By Lamis K. Andoni, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Two months ago, Shaykh Humam Sa'id, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood, resumed preaching in mosques after being banned for more than one year. The suspension last month of martial law along with lifting restrictions on preaching ceremonies in the mosques has allowed him along with many banned clergymen to resume their activities in a free and open atmosphere.

"As far as I know there are no government restrictions or intervention concerning preachers," said Sa'id, who was banned in 1988 for criticising the measures which accompanied Jordan's desengagement from the West Bank.

Despite the exclusive "legal" status of the Muslim Brotherhood, members of the fundamentalist movement did not totally escape some of the constraints which characterised the pre-democratisation era in the Kingdom.

"The prevailing atmosphere of freedom in the country was reflected on the Ikhwan (the Brotherhood) just as on everybody else in the country," said Ziyad abu-Ghanimah, a prominent member of the movement. "If was not for the democratisation process we would have not been able to return to the preaching podiums in the mosque," he said.

Abu-Ghanimah was refering to a 1985 law which gave the government the right to select and ban mosque preachers, practically excluding a number of committed Ikhwan clergy from preaching in the country's mosques.

In 1985, the Ikhwan deputies in Parliament accepted the law, provided the Ministry of Awqaf gave an advance warning to the clergy who "went overboard" before actually prohibiting them.

"But this is not the way the law was actually applied. Many preachers were banned for raising political issues and without the required prior warning," Islamist Deputy Yusuf al-'Azm said.

During the three-day Lower House debate on confidence in the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran, most of the 20 deputies representing the Ikhwan sharply criticised and even called for the repeal of the preaching law.

"How can anyone censor and control the word of God?" asked Shaykh 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant, the defiant and out-spoken Islamist deputy.

Shaykh Sa'id said that the imposed on him was not in line with the provisions of the law but was a political decision. [sentence as published]

"In my case the law was not applied instead it was a direct action from the military governor (the prime minister, under martial law)," said Sa'id, who was elected last November to the Lower House.

But, according to Muslim Brotherhood officials, Minister of Awqaf 'Ali al-Faqir, himself an Islamic deputy, has practically suspended the law, thus allowing Ikhwan members to the law but it is our understanding that he

will selectively apply it if the mosque ceremonies were used to promote sectarianism or any divisions in the national unity," as Islamic deputy explained. [sentence as published]

In general, the Ikhwan, who have historically supported the state against leftist radicals in the past, had not been subjected to harassment and restrictions applied elsewhere. Nevertheless, a partial official crackdown on the Ikhwan in 1985 had curtailed many of the privileges enjoyed by the Brotherhood.

"Athough we always had a legal status, the Ikhwan nevertheless came under tremendous pressures in recent years," 'Abu Ghanimah said.

In addition to curbs on the Ikhwan's use of the mosques, which, have always been effective venues to propagate the Brotherhood's views, some members of the movement were stripped of their civil service posts.

Deputy al-Azm said that in the last five years more than 350 Ikhwan or Islamists were either fired or refused jobs in government departments, especially the Ministry of Education and universities.

The dismissals seemed to breach what is widely believed to be a tacit official acceptance of the Ikhwan's influence in the university and the Ministry of Education.

Ikhwan officials said that they considered the reinstatement of the movement's members who were dismissed from the civil service as part of the more general plight of all those who were sacked for political reasons. Ikhwan deputies in Parliament have urged the government not to wait for employment opportunities to come up in order to reemploy those who were dismissed and instead prepare a special appointment list to ensure their reinstatement.

As part of the liberalisation process, the government revoked bans on suspected political activists from working for government and public departments. A government memorandum issued last week said that priority should be given to those who were either dismissed or rejected for political reasons. In the meantime, Ikhwan officials said that the movement did not intend to make a separate plea for their members' reinstatement.

Although the various political trends and Parliament members strictly oppose dismissal from government jobs for political reasons, the Ikhwan have been criticised "for trying to monopolise the Ministry of Education." The charge was denied by the spokesman of the Islamist bloc in Parliament, Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat. "I challenge anybody to prove that the Ikhwan used favouritism in job appointments. Anyway, where is the influence that we allegedly have in the Education Ministry?" 'Arabiyat asked. Deputy 'Arabiyat was removed himself from his post as undersecretary of the Ministry of Education in 1985 allegedly because he is an Ikhwan member.

In comparison with members of the other groups, including the leftists, pan-Arabist and the more radical Islamic Liberation Party (Tahrir), the Ikhwan enjoyed a relatively "priviliged" status. For unlike the leaderships of the other trends, most of whom spent long years in prison for political reasons, the leadership of the Ikhwan was almost untouched.

In the last few years, however, some prominent and outspoken Ikhwan members were apprehended and imprisoned mostly for short periods. Abu-Ghanimah himself was apprehended for 48 hours last year after making a speech in Irbid on the intifadah, while Shaykh Abu-Zant was jailed three times between 1985 and 1989 and Irbid Deptuy Ahmad al-Kawfahi was held for a short period during the anti-government riots last April.

There were no Brotherhood members among the 65 political activists who were kept for four months in the southern Siwaqah Prison. All of the detainees were exclusively leftists.

According to Abu-Ghanimah, the state's security organs used to impound passports of Brotherhood activists, but he conceded that no Ikhwan activists were ever held for lengthy periods of imprisonment.

"We were very active but within reasonable limits," he explained.

Plans to allow the formation of political parties in Jordan, according to a national charter that has not been formulated yet, are expected to end the exclusive status of the Brotherhood.

Despite their long-standing and ideological hostility towards the left, Brotherhood officials said they supported the formation of all kind of political parties in the country.

During the last November's parliamentary campaigns, and sometimes in recent Parliament debates, the Ikhwan appear to be still determined to pursue their role in countering the left and particularly the Communists. Brotherhood members do not deny that they were instrumental in preventing leftist candidates from winning in some areas in country by supporting alternative candidates, including those running for Christian seats.

An Islamist deputy associated closely with the Muslim Brotherhood recently urged the Communists in Jordan to abandon their political thoughts "after the defeat of Marxism in the countries where it was adopted."

The "ideological" friction gave way to fears that the Ikhwan would show intolerance towards pluralism and co-existence with other trends in a free atmosphere.

But deputies 'Arabiyat and al-Azm dismissed such fears and said that the movement would not object the pluralism.

"It is true that our religion is against any atheist thought but we would Not oppose the formation of and coexistence with other parties including the Communists," 'Arabiyat said.

Oil Refinery Management Agrees To Union Demands

JN3001092090 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
29 Jan 90 p 28

[By Khalil 'Abd-al-Salam]

[Excerpt] Labor Minister Dr Qasim 'Ubaydat has announced the Jordan Oil Refinery Company [JORC] has agreed to demands made by the JORC workers' trade union.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y, Dr 'Ubaydat said this came during the meeting the JORC management conducted yesterday to discuss the demands. Dr 'Ubaydat expressed satisfaction with the JORC management's response to the union's demands and with the spirit of cooperation it showed in dealing with its staff and workers. The minister also said he is satisfied with the constructive, meaningful dialogue conducted between the JORC management and workers union, which demonstrated the two parties' concern for JORC's interests and efforts to serve the homeland and citizens. [passage omitted]

Ministry Says Sorghum Fit for Animal Consumption

JN0102094890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
1 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] Amman—Minister Of Supply Muhammad Abu-al-Huda has announced laboratory tests recently conducted on samples of sorghum proved it germinally and chemically is fit for animal consumption.

Abu-al-Huda advised livestock owners to use the corn according to rates approved by the Ministry of Agriculture for mixing fodder.

A committee of representatives from the competent authorities in the Ministry of Agriculture and Supply and the Royal Scientific Society has conducted laboratory examinations on samples of this corn.

Location, Condition of Hostages Reported

LD2801104190 London THE SUNDAY CORRESPONDENT in English 28 Jan p 11

[By correspondent Hala Jaber]

[Excerpt] I was in West Beirut, where I lived for many years, to visit relatives and meet contacts. There has been heavy fighting in the city over the last six months—between Syria's Muslim surrogates and General 'Awn's Christian Lebanese Army. This, and its likely implications, rather than any new evidence on the hostages, seemed the most likely story.

After a few days a friend, whom I have known for four years, invited me to the wake of a Hizballah member who had been killed in southern Lebanon. It might endanger my contact to identify him here but some of his family, though not he, are closely involved with Hizballah and he has always proved totally reliable.

He knows that I am a journalist but, as far as the other people at the wake were concerned, I was simply a friend of a respected local figure.

Once the prayers had finished we were invited for coffee to the home of the family of the dead man. They were not well-off but, as is traditional in Lebanon, they were unstinting in their hospitality. We sat drinking coffee as people came to pay their respects.

We were joined by a young man, in his mid-twenties, bearded and carrying a pistol, who greeted my friend. I was introduced but, since strict Muslims—and he clearly was Hizballah—are not allowed casual body contact with women, we did not shake hands.

I did not know this man, and since I was a journalist based in London, it seemed wiser not to become involved in the conversation, which meandered at first over the day's events.

Then my friend asked the man what he was doing now. He pointed to a bullet-riddled three-storey building 150 metres away and said, proudly, that from the beginning of January he had been "assigned" to guard "the British, John McCarthy and the American (Thomas) Sutherland."

This was not the usual Beirut talk, rumour mingled with speculation masquerading as fact. These were two friends, talking privately after a funeral in the heartland of Hizballah. Nor did it seem likely that Hizballah were deliberately leaking information; they could do that far more effectively by sending a photograph or a videotape of the hostages to a Western news agency or a local newspaper. The man did not want money for his information and so was not one of the many tricksters who try to make money out of the hostages.

My friend did not press for details, since this might have aroused suspicion. The man, warming to the story, said that McCarthy and Sutherland were in the building's basement and were guarded 24 hours a day.

The house is close to the Hay Madi barracks where, in summer 1988, according to the Syrians, all the Western hostages taken by Hizballah were briefly held because of heavy fighting in the southern suburbs. He seemed to think it interesting that there were 18 steps from the ground to the basement, suggesting that he had counted them many times as he patrolled. He said both men were in good health. "We have strict orders," he said, "to make sure that they are kept well and that neither of them falls ill. We provide them with light by using strip lighting and rechargeable batteries (because of frequent power failures). We occasionally bring them old magazines and newspapers. We take care of them like we take care of ourselves." Then the man, whose name I have witheld to protect my friend, moved to other matters.

We could have pressed him for more details—how long had McCarthy and Sutherland been held here, when would they be moved, where were the other Western hostages, what did Hizballah want for their release—but any attempt to question him in this way was, in the circumstances difficult and, possibly, dangerous.

Next day in West Beirut we tried to check the story. We met a man who, several sources have since confirmed, was a senior member of Hizballah's security network.

Ostensibly my friend was interested in events in south Lebanon, where the moderate Shi'a Muslim militia, Amal, has been fighting Hizballah. Then, casually, he mentioned that there were four hostages in the building which we had been told about the day before.

No, said the Hizballah official, only two—a British, McCarthy, and an American, Sutherland. "They are in the same cell. All the other hostages are alive and well. They are not held in the same place for security reasons. They have been split into small groups in various parts of the suburbs.

"McCarthy and Sutherland have three to four men to guard them. Outside the building we have fighters entrenched in bunkers. We are making sure that no harm comes to them."

'Officers Alliance' Condemns Conflict with LF

NC3101184490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Statement issued by the Christian Lebanese Officers Alliance (Tahaluf al-Dubbat al-Masihiyyin al-Lubnaniyyin); date and place not given]

[Text] Brother citizens, military or civilian: How long will this playing with fire continue in the liberated areas? How long will this bloodshed, this irresponsibility, and this gambling with the lives of the free citizens continue?

In the name of the people, and in our effort to preserve the freedom of the eastern area, we emphatically refuse

to involve the Lebanese Army in an open conflict with the Lebanese Forces, the institution which has sacrificed, and still is sacrificing, so much to preserve the unity of the Christian ranks.

We say no to a battle with the Lebanese Forces and yes to a battle with the Syrian occupation, of which 'Awn has been the biggest bootlicker in his efforts to reach the presidential seat. We have a complete file on 'Awn's relations with the Syrian regime, which we will publish in due course. We occupied leading positions within the Army and were removed when we refused to go along with 'Awn, despite the temptations and the arrest campaigns launched daily against us by the one who turned the army into a militia.

We would like to say to 'Awn that we are many and that his S[illegible]istic methods will not dissuade us. We will no lo[illegible]ep silent on the oppressive measures, the camp[illegible]which mislead the people, and the gambling with the destiny of the free area. 'Awn's persistence in his current policy will definitely lead us to a horrific calamity.

Brother in arms, be you soldier, officer, or noncommissioned officer, let your conscience be your judge. Do not run after bright and empty slogans. The honor of your stand lies in its virtue in rising above all narrow considerations.

'Awn Interviewed on Fighting With Lebanese Forces

NC3101194490 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1750 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Telephone interview with General Michel 'Awn by unidentified reporter—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, good evening.

['Awn] Good evening.

[Reporter] The obvious question that we want to put to Your Excellency tonight is about your assessment of the situation in the wake of the developments that took place in the free areas today.

['Awn] We can say that the attack in all parts of the free area was premeditated. The incidents began with riots designed to create instability. The preparations ended with the deployment of the Lebanese Forces in various areas. They deployed in Jubayl, Kasrawan, and Beirut. They had made combat preparations at a time when we badly need to fight on other fronts to keep our own front steadfast. The school incident was minor and was not supposed to create a problem. They used this incident as a pretext to spark off this full-scale war within the internal front. This development was to be expected in view of the rumors they had circulated, saying that they would see what would happen between now and 2, 3 and 4 February. All these things were planned beforehand. We were turning our back on our areas and facing the other front. They were in the rear, planning these violent actions in order to bring down our front from within.

No one should be surprised if tomorrow we disclose whom they received secretly this week and what their personal decisions are. I believe that these will not surprise anyone and everyone will find out. For the time being, I will not engage in the game of mentioning names, saying who was present, or discussing recommendations reached with foreign parties. They always [words indistinct] and claim that they are zealots about resistance. The situation is under control on the ground. There have been, regrettably, certain excesses that show that the Lebanese Forces are not fighters. They have taken certain hostages, families of officers, along with wives and children in Sarba. They have taken hostages in other areas and they are threatening to kill them. I cannot see any sign of Lebanese or fighter's magnanimity, or international legality. These are terrorist acts. They used such methods when they managed to enter the Sarba Barracks. [words indistinct] reports about the fall of barracks and centers. These are lies and groundless. We repeat our call to all Lebanese Forces members and fighters not to be deceived by this ploy. It is the same sectarian ploy that we have fought for 15 years. We must not be deceived by [words indistinct] ploy by a certain leadership that is inciting them to fight their brother soldiers. I still call on them to join the barracks to complete our march together. I also call on the Lebanese people to stand united and resist the injustice [words indistinct] the current Lebanese Forces leadership.

Yesterday I received a delegation of mothers whose sons had been kidnapped or killed. They came here and wept. Many people are being (?threatened). You all know what this leadership practised against the Lebanese people. Therefore, this leadership is rejected. Resistance is not rejected. We are not saying the resistance and its rifles [words indistinct] we want rifles on the forward and not the rear positions. This is my assessment of the situation today. The army situation is sound and rumors should not be heeded, because they are false. When something happens we will tell you the truth. They should not affect the people's morale through certain information media, which have always been [sentence incomplete as heard]. We had uncovered them before this battle. They circulate rumors and lies. We tell the Lebanese people [words indistinct] and our army stationed on the combat lines to look outward and not (?inside) so that our front may remain steadfast.

Whatever happens inside our area and however difficult a problem may be, we can resolve it. Our front must remain steadfast to stand up to the other fronts. I would like to ask the Lebanese Forces why they withdrew from 'Uyun al-Simnan and left the front, if they are defending it. They have left al-'Aqurah and other areas in the North. Why did they leave the foreign front and come to fight here? Had they not been assured about the foreign parties, they would not have made such a decision. This Trojan war is very dangerous. However, thank God, we can exercise patience and self-restraint so as not to commit violations, but have a clean fight and resolve the problem. The Lebanese people will eventually emerge triumphant.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, [words indistinct] regarding your comment on a statement a short while ago by a U.S. spokesman that you should step down?

['Awn] This is not surprising. They are asking us [words indistinct] they are putting forward a domestic problem. [words indistinct] in answering the first question, I referred to a secret visitor to the Lebanese Forces. [words indistinct] maybe his mission has to do with McCarthy's statement. Today they are translating the words into action. Thus we are still experiencing the same problem. The U.S. position [words indistinct]. When we strongly defend our right against a U.S. initiative that sells us out, certainly, we will be a target for the United States, which exploits every incident. Not only that, it is planning with [words indistinct] for these incidents. However, as we have overcome difficulties in the past, we will also overcome these. You will see the result soon. God willing, the result will be good for everyone.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr Prime Minister. Good evening.

Gen Lahhud Addresses East Beirut Servicemen

NC3101201090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Message to "military men" by Army Commander General Emile Lahhud—read by announcer]

[Text] Comrades in arms, servicemen of the proud army of Lebanon, heroic officers and soldiers: Wherever you are on the soil of the dear homeland, the painful events in this country make us pause and ponder the motives which led to the army's involvement in battles with dubious goals. The army has been used for personal aims and to satisfy a lust for power and authority. The army should not be used against the Lebanese people in any part of the country. The army must defend the homeland and the people and not be used as a tool to destroy their homes and blow up their businesses.

Servicemen, the events that are taking place today in a dear part of Lebanon are no more than an attempt by one individual who, having failed to impose his hegemony on the entire nation, is determined to take complete control of a certain part of the country and partition it off from the rest of the homeland.

Servicemen, this is not your battle. You are the guardians of Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, independence, and freedoms. Honor the pledge which you have taken. Show your true mettle, listen to your conscience, and prevent the slaughter of Lebanon and its people. The Lebanese are looking to you to redeem them: live up to their expectations. The country needs you. Long live the army. Long live Lebanon.

Al-Huss Comments on East Beirut Events

NC3101204690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Commenting on the events in East Beirut, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss said: At these critical and terrible moments, our hearts bleed at the thought of peaceful people huddled in their homes and shelters. These are the ones who will once more pay, in life and property, the price of a senseless struggle that can only prolong the crisis and worsen the suffering of the Lebanese.

Al-Hirawi Calls on Army To Disobey 'Awn

NC3101220490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] In an appeal addressed to the Lebanese Army in the eastern area, al-Hirawi said that the army should no longer listen to its alleged command which lusts after blood, war, and killing. In his appeal, which the AL-SAFIR newspaper publishes tomorrow, he said that the property and lives of people are not the possession of an individual, enabling him to seize power and become a dictator.

Al-Hirawi expressed regret for every victim that falls in the eastern area, and said: No one should think that we are satisfied with what is happening. Our children, kinfolk, and property are there. The fighting must stop. The military authority, which receives its orders from General 'Awn, must disobey him. He acts as if every citizen in the eastern area belongs to him and to his whims and ambitions.

LF Commander Ja'ja' Addresses Appeal to Army

NC0102061590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0414 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Appeal issued by Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja'; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] My comrades, officers and men of the Lebanese Army: It is a tragedy of fate that we should find ourselves in confrontation after we have always stood side by side in one trench for the sake of one objective and one cause.

My comrades, officers and men of the Lebanese Army: who among you does not remember the long hours that we spent together on the battlefronts, the bitter loaf we shared in the dark hours, and the long nights we spent making plans together to emerge from the dark tunnel into which our homeland had entered. I know that you have not forgotten. I too have not forgotten and will not forget.

Comrades, just as a revolutionary stabs his own chest with his sword in an act of suicide, I find myself today forced to give the order to the Lebanese Forces to defend themselves. You know—and no one can know better—how much I tried to keep this bitter cup from my lips. However, the lust for power has blinded those who issue

orders to you. Suddenly the enemies changed: Al-Dubayyah became Suq al-Gharb, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah became the Southern Suburb. They forget that there are 50,000 foreign troops in Lebanon, in addition to dozens of militias and enemies.

I promise you comrades—I, who chose my military commanders from your ranks—that you will always remain my comrades.

I address you, on whatever front or barracks you are, and say that you will remain our comrades. We will remain side by side, yesterday, today, and tomorrow, for the sake of Lebanon.

Further on Fighting Between 'Awn Army, LF

Army Shells 'Alayh, West Beirut

NC3101185490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] The 'Awn cliques have stepped up their attacks on some parts of the mountain area and the capital. The town of 'Alayh was targeted by artillery shelling at 1600 today. At the same time, two shells fell in al-Hamra' in West Beirut, injuring several citizens. At 1800, the al-Yarzah cliques resumed their bombardment of West Beirut and three shells fell in Ziqaq al-Bilat.

E. Beirut Conflict Undecided

NC3101190090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Clashes between fighters loyal to Michel 'Awn and the Lebanese Forces [LF] in East Beirut became more severe tonight. Reports speak of dozens of shells falling in various areas, including the vicinity of the Presidential Palace. Citing eyewitnesses, REUTER says many fires have broken out in East Beirut, among which is a large fire in the gas tanks in al-Dawrah. Clouds of smoke could be seen over al-Dawrah.

Hospital sources say that four soldiers loyal to 'Awn have been injured. Security sources indicate that 1 man was killed and 14 injured when shells fell on the western sector of Beirut.

It is not yet known if either of the warring sides has so far achieved any clear military gains. Reports speak of reciprocal attacks in which both sides are using a diverse range of weapons. Both sides are reported to have mobilized all their resources in this battle, which is seen as decisive for East Beirut's political future.

6 Reportedly Killed in W. Beirut

NC3101201390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2004 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] We have just heard that six persons were killed in al-Shiyah in West Beirut a short while ago. Three shells landed in the area from East Beirut.

LF Seizes Juniyah Naval Base

NC3101224590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2215 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] We have been informed that the Lebanese Forces have seized the naval base in Juniyah which was under the control of the 'Awn group.

The Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation this evening showed a film of the Lebanese Forces' takeover of the Sarba barracks after it had fallen to them.

The fringes of al-Ashrafiyah, Badru, and Furn al-Shubbak are still coming under random intermittent shelling by the 'Awn forces. This followed a concentrated night-time bombardment of al-Ashrafiyah which left the father and mother of the Fakhuri family dead. Their three children were injured. Two other people were injured in the al-Ashrafiyah area as a result of this shelling.

AFP quoted hospital sources in West Beirut and the Southern Suburb as saying that 8 people were killed and 16 injured in West Beirut and the Southern Suburb as a result of intermittent shelling.

Artillery Shelling Resumes 1 Feb

NC0102055490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The artillery bombardment of the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Salumi, and the vicinity of al-Dubayyah resumed at about 0530 today, following a night of intermittent clashes. This situation continued until dawn.

According to the latest reports, the Nahr Ibrahim Road was reopened after the last group of the 72d Battalion, consisting of an armed personnel carrier company, joined Lebanese Forces units.

The Lebanese Forces also captured a naval base belonging to the 'Awn group in Juniyah and the Sarba barracks last night.

Update on 'Fierce Fighting'

NC0102062590 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0541 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] We have just been informed that fierce fighting is currently raging in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Dikwanah, Galerie Sim'an, al-Ashrafiyah, Rumyah, Salumi, and the periphery of al-Dubayyah. Various types of weapons are being used in the clashes.

According to security reports, the fighting has extended beyond the contact lines up to the Jisr al-Madfun near al-Batrun. Meanwhile, General 'Awn's troops managed to gain control of centers in al-Dikwanah, Sinn al-Fil, and al-Fanar, while the Lebanese Forces succeeded in storming the positions held by 'Awn's brigades in areas between al-Dubayyah and the Halat airport, and scored

a significant victory when all the personnel in the Sarba barracks surrendered. All officers and soldiers have been captured.

RFL Reports LF Successes

NC0102082590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Forces fifth department has issued several statements saying that the Lebanese forces have taken control of the following positions and centers: Halat airfield; 'Awn's units' center in 'Uyun al-Siman, which is their last position in the area where 50 members of the batalion in (Dayr Mayfun) have been captured; and 'Azzuz barracks in the Nahr Ibrahim area where Battalion 75 with all its equipment, armored cars, and ammunition, as well as parts of Battalions 74 and 72, have joined the Lebanese Forces.

The Lebanese Forces also control the following positions: The Finance Ministry building near the public security headquarters, the white building in Badaru, the Mu'arbid Hospital in the Freres area, and the civil defense center in 'Ayn al-Rummanah.

The Lebanese Forces have also captured 'Awn's units' artillery emplacements in the arts college area and taken control of the building housing the college. All barracks of General 'Awn's forces in 'Amshit have surrendered to the Lebanese Forces. Some centers in Jubayl have joined the Lebanese Forces while others have announced their neutrality. Sarba barracks in Kasrawan has declared its allegiance to the Lebanese Forces. The Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation screened footage from inside Sarba barracks shortly after midnight last night.

On the other hand, the al-Rumiyah artillery emplacement in al-Qulay'at, the army's last emplacement in Kasrawan area, has been destroyed. Fifty-three members of the units of the 7th and 8th Brigades deployed in the areas of 'Amshit and Nahr Ibrahim have been captured.

In their attacks on the Lebanese Forces barracks, the 'Awn group's artillery shelled some peaceful residential neighborhoods in the free area. Two citizens were martyred and five others were wounded as a result of the shelling of al-Ashrafiyah by 'Awn's group. [passage omitted]

The al-Ahrafiyah area was subjected to 82- and 120-mm caliber artillery shelling from West Beirut. [passage omitted]

AFP reports that 8 persons were killed and 20 others were wounded when shells landed in West Beirut and the Southern Suburb. [passage omitted]

According to reports received by our radio, a 130-mm artillery emplacement in upper al-Matan, where the Syrian occupation forces are in control, shelled the al-Nahda sports field area in West Beirut last night.

Hizballah Radio on Fighting

NC0102075090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The battles in the eastern area continue to rage violently between the opposing sides amid conflicting reports from both parties about military gains. The Phalangist radio says that the Nahr Ibrahim road has been reopened, the 72d Battalion has joined the military forces loyal to it along with an armed personnel carrier company, and the naval base in Juniyah has been captured. Meanwhile, reports carried by Michel 'Awn's radio station speak of an advance made by his forces, saying that they have cleared Beirut areas of Lebanese Forces units and captured many of their barracks.

According to reports, the fighting became violent at 0330 today in most parts of the eastern area. Various heavy weapons, including rocket launchers, are being used in the fighting. The reports add that large numbers of people were killed in yesterday's fighting, but it was not possible to count the casualties because rescue teams were not able to remove them from the streets. A preliminary count, however, indicates that there are 44 bodies in hospital morgues and 195 injured people have arrived at various hospitals. It is possible that the actual casualty figure may be higher because of the ferocity of the fighting and the opposing sides' use of people's homes as barricades.

It has been learned that the two opposing sides have brought in massive reinforcements to the battle, which is believed to one of the most violent the eastern area has witnessed so far.

Security sources have said that Michel 'Awn's forces have made military gains in more than one area and succeeded yesterday in encircling Lebanese Forces' positions and severing their supply lines.

'Awn's sources have reported that al-Yarzah's army captured Safra, al-Fanar, Mar Rukub, and Nahr Ibrahim barracks yesterday. As of last night, the army began to clear al-Jummayzah, al-Karantina, and al-Dawrah, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah positions of Lebanese Forces units. Fighting there took place on the roofs of buildings and from house to house, causing great damage and casualties among innocent citizens who usually suffer most in such fighting.

The reports also said that big fires also blazed in the areas of fighting. A great fire occurred near the fuel reservoir in al-Dawrah.

General 'Awn admitted last night that the Sabra barracks which houses the 5th Brigade was captured by the Phalangist forces. He said that it is a sad affair that a barracks defending the free areas should come under attack. He said: We will not retreat an inch and we will send reinforcements to recapture it. 'Awn added: We have cleared the greater part of 'Ayn al-Rummanah, bypassed Sahat al-'Abd barracks, and cleared the al-Dikwahah, al-Fanar, and Safra barracks.

Sources close to the Phalangist forces reported that they have seized the headquarters of the National Liberal Party, the Guardians of the Cedars Party, the Christian Democratic Party, and the Unification and Liberation Front in al-Ashrafiyah without having to use military force. The residence of Dany Sham'un [leader of the National Liberal Party] was encircled and six of his guards were taken prisoner.

School Hit in Eastern Area

NC0102083490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The al-Rumayl state school, which was being used as living quarters by displaced people, has been hit as a result of the bombardment of the eastern area. Fifteen people, most of whom are children, were injured. Fire broke out in the school and an adjoining building, and 50 vehicles sustained various damages.

It has been difficult to obtain an accurate casualty count for the fighting in the past hours because of the intensive gunfire and the severing of telephone cables in numerous neighborhoods.

Media sources in West Beirut said 40 people had died and 200 had been injured. Official authorities have not, however, confirmed these figures. The same sources also said that 8 people were killed and 16 others were wounded in West Beirut.

2 Killed in Al-Ashrafiyah

NC0102110990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Excerpt] 'Awn's group shelled the residential quarters in the areas of al-Ashrafiyah, al-Dawrah, al-Judaydah, al-Sabtiyah, Badaru, Furn al-Shubbak, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, and al-Qulay'at from dawn until noon today. The indiscriminate shelling of al-Ashrafiyah led to the martyrdom of citizens Jaqueline Antoine Sukkar and Zayna Baruta, whose daughter Micheline was wounded. [passage omitted]

30 Killed in Eastern Area

NC0102113490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] AFP today reported preliminary statistics about the casualties from the fighting in the eastern area. According to the report, at least 30 persons were killed and 110 were wounded. [passage omitted]

53 Killed, 215 Wounded

NC0102122590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Isolated skirmshes are currently raging in the eastern part of the capital where heavy fighting had taken place. The intensity of the fighting between 'Awn's groups and the Lebanese Forces subsided 2 hours ago in the wake of the declaration of a cease-fire agreement reached at 0910 today as a result of the papal nuncio's efforts. [passage omitted]

Security sources have said that 53 people have been killed and 215 others wounded, according to preliminary casualty toll. [passage omitted]

Druze Radio on 'Awn's Position

NC0102144690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Excerpts] It is not yet clear what gains have been made following 24 hours of fierce fighting and reciprocal raids in East Beirut. It is however clear that 'Awn's plan to liquidate or curb the military strength of the Lebanese Forces has not yet been successful. [passage omitted]

Clashes between the forces of 'Awn and Ja'ja' are still going on, but with less intensity than they were in the morning. Most of the fighting is taking place on the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah and 'Ayn al-Rummanah. [passage omitted]

In a clear admission of the Lebanese Forces' occupation of the Sarba barracks, 'Awn's radio said that the Lebanese Forces have used cheap methods to gain control of Sarba. The Lebanese Forces, the radio said, suddenly surrounded the homes of the officers and their families and fired at workers in the compound, killing three servicemen. The Lebanese Forces then ordered the women and children to assemble in the club's main hall and negotiated the surrender of the barracks in return for their release. 'Awn's radio said that, in order to safeguard the families, there was no more fighting, and the gunmen were allowed into the Sarba barracks.

REUTER cites 'Awn sources as saying that the al-Yarzah group is ready to attack buildings in al-Ashrafiyah, al-Jummayzah, al-Karantinah, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah, where elements of the Lebanese Forces are positioned. [passage omitted]

The al-Yarzah ['Awn Army] command has issued a statement denying that the Lebanese Forces have captured army positions or that any army officers have sided with the Lebanese Forces. The statement accused the Lebanese Forces of planting antitank and antipersonnel mines on the approaches to al-Ashrafiyah and on other public roads and asked the citizens to be cautious in this repect.

'Awn's radio also said that most of the Lebanese Forces have fallen to 'Awn's fighters. The radio stated that the Defense Ministry has been coming under rocket and artillery shelling since this morning.

A while ago, 'Awn's radio said that the al-Yarzah forces have so far taken control of the Lebanese Forces barracks in Nahr Ibrahim, al-Safra', Antilyas, al-Fanar, al-Bawshariyah, al-Jadidah, and al-Dikwanah. [passage omitted]

Al-Ashrafiyah, VOL Bombarded

NC0102135890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1340 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The al-Ashrafiyah area in general, and the Voice of Lebanon radio station in particular, are now coming under directed and indiscriminate artillery bombardment, causing damage to property and streets and loss of life. The Voice of Lebanon staff members are all well and performing their duty of serving the people and the truth. Their weapon is the word in the face of guns, fire, and shells that can do much damage, but will do nothing against love and truth, the only things that are not transient. To those who are trying to silence the Voice of Lebanon, we say: Rest assured, the glory of words will not vanish, and the voice of freedom and dignity will remain in every heart and conscience.

VOL Building Damaged

NC0102135890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon radio station in Beirut was the target of concentrated artillery bombardment by 'Awn's groups last night and this morning at a time when all members of the station's staff were at their posts performing their duty. Thank God, no one was injured. The radio building sustained direct hits last night and this morning from artillery emplacements operated by 'Awn's group. Most of the building's floors suffered heavy damage. The intention was to silence the frank Lebanese voice. The aggressors did not realize that no matter how aggressive the gun is, it will not silence the voice of liberty and right.

At noon today, Roget Dib, secretary general of the Phalangist Party, inspected the radio station and assured himself that all the staff members were safe. He also viewed the material damage caused to the building as a result of the artillery shelling.

Phalangist Secretary General Dib made the following statement:

[Begin Dib recording] Certainly any citizen or official who sees the destruction which I saw today at the Voice of Lebanon radio station will wonder when the anger and grudges in our society will disappear and be replaced by reason, understanding, and logic. We have had enough confrontations and grudges for the past 15 years. It is time to deal with our problems objectively, openly, and with complete freedom. What can one say of the Voice of Lebanon? It is a free rostrum, a symbol of the resistance carried out by the Phalangist Party, the Lebanese Forces, and other parties. It has been in service for 15 or 20 years. It was established in very difficult circumstances and continued to operate in difficult circumstances. It is one of the foundations of the free society which we want to build. I believe that attacking it in this way will not help to resolve problems. Indeed this will complicate matters. Today we have to think how to resolve issues, how to enhance liberty, and how to eliminate grudges, not create new ones.

I congratulate the station's staff on their safety. I hope—indeed I appeal—that this media rostrum, and other ones like it, will remain neutral in the conflicts which I hope will disappear. This society and all Lebanon has suffered enought. [end recording]

Fighting Abates

NC0102180590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] According to a REUTER report, 58 people were killed and 240 injured in the fighting in East Beirut. An AFP report says that 77 were killed and 298 were injured. These estimates remain unconfirmed.

The security situation currently varies between limited skirmishes in certain areas and guarded calm in others.

'Awn, LF Cease-Fire Agreement Reached 1 Feb

VOL Reports Cease-Fire

NC0102071590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0714 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] A cease-fire agreement was reached as of 0910 today as a result of the efforts of Papal Nuncio to Lebanon Pablo Puente.

'Awn's Troops Violate Agreement

NC0102080890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Despite the working out of a cease-fire agreement as of 0910 today, security reports have indicated that 'Awn's groups are not respecting this agreement, which was reached as a result of intensive efforts of Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente. Meanwhile, Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr is conducting intensive exchanges on various levels to end the current deterioration.

The situation in East Beirut can be summed up as follows: The 'Awn groups are indiscriminately bombarding residential areas in al- Ashrafiyah, Badaru, Furn al-Shubbak, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Dawrah, al-Judaydah, and al-Qulay'at. Meanwhile, the Lebanese Forces' headquarters have been coming under shellfire since dawn today. The Lebanese Forces have gained control of 'Awn's barracks and central offices in Kasrawan and 'Amshit, with the exception of some pockets of resistance.

AFP reported that the Lebanese Forces are besieging the helicopter airbase in Adma, north of Juniyah.

Limited Skirmishes Reported

NC0102094190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Security incidents are currently confined to limited skirmishes in the areas which were earlier the scene of violent clashes. Otherwise, the cease-fire reached at 0910 today in response to the good offices of Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente is being observed.

Cedar Guardians Movement Denounces 'Awn

NC3101203890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] The corrective movement of the Cedar Guardians party has taken control of the building housing the Cedar Guardians radio. It is currently broadcasting nationalist songs on the FM frequency of 93 mhz. The movement issued a statement calling on all the Cedar Guardians fighters to join it. It also denounced the attack by General 'Awn's followers on the Lebanese Forces and called on all members of the Cedar Guardians to support the Lebanese Forces, the symbol of resistance and struggle.

Foreign Ministry on Current Developments

NC0102102190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has drawn the attention of officials in fraternal and friendly countries to the serious developments in Lebanon resulting from the continuation of the secessionist partitionist state led by former Army commander Michel 'Awn.

The most important developments are that the capital, Beirut and the Southern Suburb have been deprived of water for 3 days now, as well as the dreadful explosion in the security and military situation in the areas under 'Awn's hegemony, which has exposed the people to a danger which goes beyond the limits of endurance. 'Awn has begun to systematically embezzle the general budget funds. He has converted some of these funds into foreign currency and transferred them to his accounts in foreign banks. This led to a sharp increase in the currency prices. 'Awn did not even refrain from waging a battle against the press and media.

The Foreign Ministry added: 'Awn embroiled Lebanon in a frivolous war adventure under false slogans which sought to cause further sedition and division among the sons of the same people. The Foreign Ministry affirmed that the most serious aspect of this mutinous phenomenon is that it threatens Lebanon with destruction as a homeland and a state. Such destruction would have an adverse impact on the Arab region.

The Foreign Ministry asked the concerned countries to support its efforts, meausres, and procedures to defend the unity and existence of this homeland. It stressed that the Lebanese Government's ultimate objective is to confront the phenomenon of mutiny and partition which constitutes an obstacle vis-a-vis the march of unity, accord, and peace. It called for eliminating this state so that Lebanon can be salvaged.

LF Issues Statement on 31 Jan Operations

NC0102103390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Statement by the Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces General Command Staff]

[Text] At 1030 on Wednesday, 31 January, a mechanized force belonging to the 'Awn group advanced toward the cultural center in the Bayt al-Mustaqbal Center in al-Naqqash area. At 1100 other units launched a major attack on the Lebanese Forces barracks in al-Dubbayah and Sahat al-'Abd. Other 'Awn elements deployed along the Kasrawan coast in an attempt to encircle the Lebanese Forces barracks and their media centers.

In light of this situation, the Lebanese Forces ordered the Command Staff to confront these attacks. Lebanese Forces units then responded to the sources of fire to silence them and deter the aggressors. This in turn led to the eruption of violent battles throughout the free areas. These battles have had these results up to this moment:

In the 'Amshit area, Lebanese Forces fighters captured all the centers previously held by the 'Awn group in the 'Amshit township. Lebanese army units in 'Amshit joined Lebanese Forces units. The 'Awn group in the 'Amshit barracks, headquarters of the 7th Brigade, were encircled and neutralized.

In the area of the city of Jubayl, the positions of the 'Awn group inside the city and the surrounding hills fell to the Lebanese Forces. The Halat Airport runway was also seized. The military airport in the Nahr Ibrahim area and the air force unit in it were also placed under the control of the Lebanese Forces.

All the positions of the 'Awn group extending from Fatri in the east to the coastal road in the west, including the 'Azzuz barracks, headquarters of the 72d Battalion and part of the 74th Battalion in the paper mill area, and various positions in the same area were also seized.

In the Kasrawan area, the Lebanese Forces encircled the 'Awn group in the Kasrawan hills. They also captured the Sarba barracks, the navy forces, and the helicopter runway in the municipal recreation ground.

The Adma and al-Safra positions were also encircled.

Numerous Lebanese army units in the Kasrawan area joined Lebanese Forces fighters.

In the Beirut area, all attacks on Lebanese Forces positions in al-Dubayyah and as far as the northern and southern al-Matn were repulsed. In southern al-Matn, Lebanese Forces fighters seized some positions

belonging to the 'Awn group: the Finance Ministry building, the civil defense building, and the Mu'arbiz center. This was a preemptive operation aimed at defending Lebanese Forces positions in that area.

The Lebanese Forces have lost no barracks, center, or position in the areas of fighting, except Bayt al-Mustaqbal, which is a cultural center where no defensive force had been stationed.

The Lebanese Forces are holding 500 personnel of the 'Awn group who were captured during the fighting and are currently being treated as comrades.

The 'Awn group captured 10 Lebanese Forces elements.

All Lebanese Forces positions have been adhering to the cease-fire since 0910 today.

[Signed] The Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces General Command Staff

Ja'ja' Responds to 'Awn Call for Dissolving LF

NC0102132490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces [LF] Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has responded to General Michel 'Awn's statement to Monte Carlo radio, in which he called for the abolition of the LF. Dr Ja'ja' said: Gen 'Awn's logic is strange. He talks and exercises power as if the war were over, all foreign armies had left Lebanon, security prevailed throughout Lebanese territory, the Middle East crisis had been solved, and the only problem that remained unresolved is that of the LF.

Ja'ja' said that the LF emerged when the Lebanese Government abandoned its role in preserving the homeland's and citizens' security. Throughout the years of the war, the LF undertook the role that was basically the duty of another party. The LF is still playing this role and working constantly to oust all foreign forces from Lebanon and to sit at a negotiating table with all parties to find the best formula for a future Lebanon. I am surprised, Dr Ja'ja' added, that the issue of dissolving the LF is set forth at a time when the confrontation that the general initiated with the foreign parties has not yet come to an end. The foreign armies are still in Lebanon, militiamen are deployed in all districts, danger still surrounds the free areas, economic crises are worsening, and conflict over financial, diplomatic, and administrative decisions are at a peak. Instead of embarking on unifying all effective forces—be they spritual, political, or military—within a framework of participation in the decisionmasking process, Gen 'Awn is acting to divide these forces, simultaneously firing in all directions.

Dr Ja'ja' added: Had I been in Gen 'Awn's place and had the LF not existed, I would have acted to establish it and not to strike at it to destroy it by military force. Instead of using this force for liberation and the defense of the homeland, Gen 'Awn is employing these forces to destroy our society and its infrastructure, and to strike at its backbone of resistance—the army and the LF—not to mention the enormous losses of life and property of our kinfolk in the eastern area.

Ja'ja' said: To call for the abolition of the LF at this time and to attempt to achieve this by military force is tantamount to great national treason. Being entrusted with an institution that has given the Lebanese cause 10,000 martyrs from the best of our sons, I will not allow that the LF—the institution, its departments, and its members—be harmed. I will resist anyone who considers encroaching upon the LF appropriately and decisively.

'Awn, Ja'ja' Agree To 'Normalize' Situation

NC0102142190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1418 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] A telephone conversation took place a short while ago between General 'Awn and Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja'. They have agreed to normalize the situation. They have also decided to stop information campaigns immediately and to address the other pending problems.

Al-Hirawi Offers Help, Commends Mediators

NC0102163590 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has emphatically denounced all the attacks on the citizens' freedoms, security, and lives in the eastern areas. The president also denounced the irresponsible actions of General Michel 'Awn and reiterated that it is only by upholding legitimacy that the homeland can eliminate the causes of strife, disintegration, and degeneration, and consolidate the power of the state and the freedoms and safety of the public.

President al-Hirawi also announced that public and private hospitals in Beirut have been mobilized to provide urgent medical assistance and treat the injured.

Al-Hirawi commended Patriarch Sfayr and Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente for their efforts to stem the bloodshed and end the fighting.

Lahd Calls for 'Immediate End' to Fighting

NC0102163890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, has called on the East Beirut combatants, Army and Lebanese Forces alike, to put an immediate end to their fighting. Lahd noted that fighting among brothers cannot be justified by any disagreement and will not benefit the common cause. Such a conflict, he said, is tantamount to collective suicide that could destroy the country and make us the laughing stock of friend and foe alike.

Amal-Hizballah Iqlim al-Tuffah Fighting Resumes

NC0102064090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Tension reigns in Iqlim al-Tuffah in the wake of the outbreak of fighting between Amal and Hizballah personnel. An Amal Movement source has accused Hizballah of violating the cease-fire agreement by bombarding Sarba and Humin al-Fawqa.

Al-Hirawi Chairs Cabinet Meeting 30 Jan

NC3001154290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT Jan 90

[Statement by Information and Justice Minister Edmond Rizq after a cabinet meeting in West Beirut on 30 January—recorded]

[Excerpt] The cabinet has held a meeting chaired by His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi and attended by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the ministers.

At the beginning of the meeting, his excellency the president briefed the cabinet on the letter which Minister Dr George Sa'adah sent him offering his resignation. His excellency decided, in agreement with the prime minister, to retain the letter and wait until an appropriate decision has been reached.

The interior minister and acting defense minister reviewed the steps and measures which have been taken to begin implementing the security plan and bring the situation in the area designated in the plan under control. The cabinet discussed the various aspects of the plan and made the necessary decisions relating to its implementation. The cabinet noted with satisfaction the declared positive stands and the practical response of the leaders and parties concerned.

The cabinet discussed ways to deal with any fabricated crisis resulting from the cutting off of water supplies to the western sector of the capital, under the pretext of retaliation for legal measures which the legitimate authority is taking to safeguard the rights of the treasury and put an end to the attempt to seize public funds. The cabinet stated its commitment to safeguarding the rights of all employees and citizens, ensuring the payment of their salaries, and providing them with public services, with no exceptions and irrespective of the area in which they live. [passage omitted]

Missiles Explode Near Meeting

NC3001155190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Citing security sources, REUTER reports that two missiles exploded over an area close to Ilyas al-Hirawi's headquarters where he was chairing a meeting of Dr Salim al-Huss' government this afternoon.

According to the sources, the missiles exploded in the air. It was not possible to determine where they had come from. Immediately afterward, elements of the army and the Syrian forces deployed in the area.

Al-Rasi Committee Views Beirut Water Situation

NC3001191990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Following the cabinet's decision to form a committee under the chairmanship of Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi, health and social affairs minister, to deal with the suspension of the water supply to Beirut, Minister al-Rasi chaired a meeting of the committee this evening at which General 'Awn's threat to make Beirut thirsty was discussed.

Minister al-Rasi stated after the meeting that all contingency measures have been taken to deal with the situation. He announced that there is a plan to extend al-Damur waters to Beirut and that implementation will begin as soon as possible.

Officials Discuss Measures

NC3101203290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] For the 2d day running no water has been pumped from al-Dubayyah station [in East Beirut] to the water reservoirs in Tallat al-Khayyat and Burj Abu Haydar [in West Beirut]. The cutoff of water supplies came on the orders of secessionist officer Michel 'Awn, who is bent on rendering the citizens in the western part of the capital thirsty.

Meanwhile, officials have continued to discuss the ways and means to secure drinking water for the citizens. In this connection, Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi, minister of health and social affairs, in his capacity as chairman of the committee charged by the cabinet with dealing with the cutoff of water supplies, continued his meetings with the committee members, who are Nasir Nasrallah, chairman of the 'Ayn al-Dilb Water Authority; Engineer 'Abd-al-Rahman Ghaziri, director of projects at the Beirut Water Authority; Engineer Muhammad Qabbani; and Engineer Bassam Jabir. Today's meeting was attended by a number of private contractors, the UNICEF representative in Lebanon, the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Lebanon, and the director of the Foreign Ministry's International Affairs Department.

Sources close to the meeting have explained that the conferees discussed an urgent and immediate plan to provide the capital with water by means of tanker trucks as of tomorrow morning. Work is under way to secure 200 tanker trucks to distribute water in 33 areas in the capital as of 0800 tomorrow.

As for the second phase of the plan, it has been learned that this envisages the laying of a pipeline from al-Damur [approximately 18 km south of Beirut] to the capital within a maximum period of 2 weeks. Several contractors have been instructed to finish the projects

within the prescribed period. Under the plan, 11 wells in the al-Damur area will be fitted with pumps and connected to the reservoir in the area.

UN Informed of Situation

NC0102180090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry sent the following cable to the Lebanese missions in New York and Geneva today:

Former Army Commander General Michel 'Awn cut off the water supply of West Beirut last Tuesday [30 January], in an arbitrary and repressive measure that ignores the simplest rules of civility and causes suffering to over 1 million inhabitants.

Please notify the United Nations of this move which contradicts the dignity and rights of the people.

Sa'adah Cabinet Resignation Explained, Commented

Phalangist Leader Explains

NC2901210590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Following a meeting of the Phalangist Party Political Bureau today, Munir al-Haj, deputy party leader, said that party leader Dr George Sa'adah's letter of resignation from the government is ready and will be submitted today. He expressed the hope that this step will lead to some kind of political detente by softening positions in the eastern area and providing a chance for the resumption of the suspended dialogue, since dialogue alone can break the ice. Al-Haj added: We have repeatedly affirmed that any political peace plan cannot succeed or produce positive results unless we all participate in it within the framework of unity and solidarity. We are at a historic crossroads, and this demands joint responsibility for the decisions we make.

Explaining the reasons for the decision not to accept participation in the government, the deputy Phalangist Party leader said: When the party leader declined to participate in the government, he was acting in accordance with the concept of the al-Ta'if peace plan. The party approved the al-Ta'if agreement in letter and spirit, realizing that there would be a good mechanism for implementing it. The mechanism of implementation is the national accord government. But in order for the government to be one of national accord, it must represent all the influential parties. Because of the refusal of important influential parties in the eastern area to participate in this government, it has become improper to call it a national accord government.

There are two other reasons, al-Haj added. The first is the party leader's prior knowledge that he will not be physically and practically able to participate in government work and assume his responsibilities, particularly toward the fateful issues to which this government has devoted itself. The second reason is the fact that the government has made decisions in which he had no say and which he regards as incorrect and unsuitable. [passage omitted]

Asked whether this decision means disavowal of the al-Ta'if agreement, he said: The party leader's decision not to participate in the government does not affect our convictions regarding the agreement. These convictions may be summed up as follows:

1. The al-Ta'if agreement is a peace plan, not a war plan, and it must not be implemented by force.
2. The al-Ta'if agreement is a valuable opportunity which we must not ignore.
3. The value of al-Ta'if agreement is closely linked to its proper implementation, which must take place with the participation of all. [passage omitted]

Al-Khalil Comments

NC2901191590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Excerpts] A meeting chaired by President Ilyas al-Hirawi and attended by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Finance Minister Dr 'Ali al-Khalil, and Central Bank Governor Dr Edmond Na'im took place at the temporary presidential headquarters this evening.

Following the 1-hour meeting, Minister al-Khalil said:

[Begin recording] [Al-Khalil] The meeting chaired by his excellency the president of the Republic and attended by the prime minister, the Central Bank governor, and myself dealt with monetary and financial affairs. We hold these working sessions in order to be able to run the state and shoulder our responsibilies in the various spheres. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] Your excellency, has the budget for the forces which will implement the security plan in Beirut been approved?

[Al-Khalil] We study all financial matters referred to us. I can say that we will provide the necessary resources to ensure that the security plan is properly implemented. We also discussed some other issues which we hope to announce soon, at the appropriate time. These relate to living conditions and the rumors about the nonpayment of salaries to employees. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Your excellency, there was a significant political development today; namely, Dr George Sa'adah's resignation from the government. How do you assess this matter?

[Al-Khalil] I have not been informed of this. In my opinion, my colleague Dr Sa'adah acts responsibly. I think his resignation at this particular time will not serve the public interest. We hope that Dr Sa'adah will reconsider his decision for the benefit of the general situation and all areas, including the eastern one.

[Reporter] Your excellency, have the preparations for the implementation of the West Beirut security plan been completed?

[Al-Khalil] Preparations are still in progress. I think that the plan will be implemented within a few days, as soon as all the preparations are completed. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Syrian Military Delegation Arrives in Beirut

NC2901163890 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] A Syrian military delegation arrived in Beirut today to discuss the implementation of the security plan with Lebanese officials.

According to an informed source, the delegation, which is headed by the commander of the Syrian forces in Lebanon, Major General Sa'id Bayraqdar, met with senior army officers.

Army Commander General Emile Lahhud is expected to visit Damascus early next week.

Al-Hirawi Chairs Security Meeting

NC3001104190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Excerpt] President Ilyas al-Hirawi chaired a Lebanese-Syrian meeting last night. Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Interior Minister Ilyas al-Khazin, Army Commander General Emile Lahhud, and Internal Security Forces Commander Major General 'Umar Makhzumah attended for Lebanon, and Major General Sa'id Bayraqdar, commander of the Syrian Forces in Lebanon; Major General 'Izzat Zaydan, Major General Zuhayr Mushattat; Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of Syrian Military Intelligence in Lebanon; and Brigadier General 'Ali Hammud, head of Syrian observers in Beirut attended for Syria.

The Syrian military delegation arrived in Beirut yesterday afternoon. Sources close to the meeting have expressed complete satisfaction with the talks.

These sources said that the security plan has been given top priority and will be implemented very soon. They noted that the Lebanese-Syrian meeting provided answers to all questions about the security plan and the Syrian forces' role in supporting the Lebanese Army and the internal security forces. [passage omitted]

Gunmen, Arms Withdrawal Discussed

NC3101100890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] The cabinet met under President al-Hirawi yesterday and decided to earmark an initial $5 million to finance the security plan in West Beirut as part of the legitimate authority's efforts to end the state of rebellion. The security plan will be implemented first in West Beirut and then in all of Lebanon. Government sources said that the cabinet will cooperate on all levels to ensure the plan's success and to consolidate the legitimate authority's position. The plan is to be implemented early next week.

The Syrian military delegation told representatives of the Lebanese parties that the security plan for Beirut, the airport road, and the surrounding area will be implemented within days and that they must begin withdrawing their weapons from Beirut now. Major Generals Sa'id Bayraqdar and 'Izzat Zaydan and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an of the Syrian military delegation met representatives of the parties last night. The conferees quoted the Syrian military delegation as saying: Gunmen and arms will be forbidden; you must start taking arms out of Beirut. The conferees asserted that the Syrian military delegation told them they must withdraw their gunmen, who are not to be seen under any circumstances, from the Beirut combat lines and hand them over to the Lebanese Army.

The Syrian military delegation emphasized that Syrian forces will support the Army and the security forces when necessary, and the Syrians will assemble in a way which will permit them to intervene quickly. The delegation told the conferees that backed by the Syrian forces, the Lebanese Army will deploy mechanized patrols, and the security plan will be implemented—this political decision must be implemented.

Damascus Reports on al-Shar'-al-Qasim Meeting

JN3101155490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] A press statement issued today after talks by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, affirms the importance of bolstering Arab solidarity to enable our nation to deal seriously with the issues and challenges it faces in a manner that will safeguard Arab rights. The statement issued by the Jordanian Foreign Ministry says that the two ministers also discussed international developments and their repercussion and reflection on the Arab homeland. The statement adds that al-Shar' and al-Qasim also discussed the need to mobilize resources to strengthen and build a unified Arab stand to safeguard and secure Arab interests at a time when the role of the economic and political groupings is growing, particularly in Europe.

Al-Shar' and al-Qasim also reviewed the methods used in Arab and international political action to support the popular Palestinian intifadah and to confront the dangers resulting from the expansionist, aggressive Zionist policy. This is necessary, particularly in light of the recent statements by several Israeli leaders and the increasing Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine, to support Arab efforts to achieve national reconciliation in Lebanon.

The meeting between al-Shar' and al-Qasim came in connection with the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee, which concluded in Amman today.

Minister on Lebanese Sovereignty, Euphrates Water

JN3101173290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1105 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Muscat, 31 Jan (WAKH)—Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has stated that what is being done in Lebanon is to implement a joint Arab decision by the Casablanca summit on the basis of which the Tripartite Arab Committee was formed so that Lebanon can regain its unity in a manner that will secure the right to coexist for all Lebanese.

In a statement to the OMAN NEWS AGENCY, Salman said that Lebanese sovereignty is now being extended to the areas where the Syrian Army is deployed with the handing over of some of them to the legitimate authority, which has the right to make decisions for the realization of stability in these areas. Salman said he hopes that the legitimate authority would be able to extend sovereignty over the entire Lebanese territory and that a joint solution would be achieved in coordination with the Arab states as part of the Casablanca Summit resolutions and the al-Ta'if accord, as they fully express the Arab nation's will.

Commenting on Turkey's cutting off the Euphrates' waters to Syria and Iraq and how much Syria has been affected, Salman said: The Euphrates River is shared not only by Syria and Turkey but also by Iraq. Although the Euphrates source is in Turkey, its course in Syria is longer than in any other country and, consequently, Syria benefits more from this river.

Salman said: The Syrian people have been accustomed since the dawn of history to living by the Euphrates' waters. From the moment Turkey suddenly proclaimed this initiative in late 1989, Syria sent delegations to settle the matter in light of Syrian-Turkish relations which have improved over the last few years. Salman indicated that Syria made it clear to Turkey that such a measure would have great impact on the people of Syria and Iraq and disrupt the operation of the largest power-generating station in Syria, a station built on the Euphrates Dam.

The Syrian information minister voiced his hope that by virtue of the relations of neighborliness and the historical ties, Ankara would go back on its decision and reduce the period of the water will be cut off, in view of the great damage the Syrian economy will suffer as a result of the decision, especially since 75 percent of Syria's water resources come from the Euphrates River.

Salman noted that when Turgut Ozal was prime minister in 1987, agreement was reached during his visit to Syria to allow a constant and permanent flow of the Euphrates waters to Syria at a minimum of 500 cubic meters per second. This amount was allocated to Syria and Iraq together in accordance with an agreement between Turkey and Iraq concerning the sharing of the waters going into Syria via the Euphrates River. But the agreement that Ozal had promised was not [words indistinct] and Syria, therefore, is waiting for the cutoff period to be shortened.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Decree Pardons Soldiers' 'Crimes'

LD3101163490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] The Office of the Presidency reports that the decree of esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, on the pardoning of crimes of the Armed Forces personnel has been issued as follows:

The decree of the president on the pardoning of Armed Forces personnel's crimes:

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the independent defense of the country by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, and on the requests of the parents and relatives of the personnel of the Armed Forces, and in consideration of the National Reconciliation Commission's proposal and the implementation of national reconciliation, the following provisions are approved.

Article I

A. For those members of the Armed Forces who left their units for various reasons and avoided military service until 20 January 1990 or left their duties without permission or absconded, their judiciary prosecution shall be dropped and they shall be enlisted if they return to their duties or join the Armed Forces by 20 March 1990, provided they have not committed crimes of treason, terrorism, assassination, murder, destroying weapons and combat techniques, or other crimes.

B. If they return during that period to their original units, their punishment shall be waived, and they shall be enlisted with the service and their previous service shall be counted.

Article II

For the provision of facilities for members of the Armed Forces, Decree No 194 dated 21 April 1989 and Decree 510 dated 26 June 1989, which had been extended until 21 October 1989 by Decree No 919 dated 26 August, shall be extended until 20 March as from the date of its original expiry.

Article III

This decree shall be introduced from the date of its approval and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] Najibullah, President of Afghanistan

Car Bomb in Kabul Kills 6, Injures 122

LD3101163190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Pakistan and the U.S.-backed extremists planned and organized an explosion this afternoon in a crowded section of Kabul in the Mohammad Jan Khan Wat area. BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military correspondent reports the device placed by extremists in a car—conforming with the state terrorist policies of the United States and Pakistan—exploded near a number of our compatriots, including children, women, elderly men, and workers, who were engaged in their daily work.

As a result of this unforgivable crime, six compatriots were killed and 122 others were wounded, most of whom received injuries from flying glass. They were released from the hospital after treatment.

Cars, buildings and shops within a 200-meter radius sustained heavy damage, totalling millions of afghanis. According to another report, the representative of the UN Good Offices Missions in Afghanistan and Pakistan and foreign journalists visited the site of the incident, took notes, and reported this incident. The report adds that Ward 2 youth brigades members donated 900 cubic centimeters of blood to those injured in the incident.

Mujahidin Kill 37 Soldiers in Qandahar Area

BK3101141690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of fierce fighting between the mujahidin and the Kabul regime forces in various parts of the country. In an operation in Qandahar Province, the mujahidin reportedly killed 16 militiamen, including a commander, while 14 militiamen surrendered to mujahidin. In another attack on (Shujapur) post in Qandahar, the mujahidin killed five Kabul soldiers. In yet another attack along the Farah-Qandahar highway, the mujahidin killed 16 more Kabul regime soldiers and damaged 3 tanks.

Barialay Meets Soviet Foreign Trade Delegation

LD2901073190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0512 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 28, BAKHTAR—Mahmud Barialay, first deputy premier of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA), today in his office, had a meeting with the delegation of the foreign economic relations of the Soviet Union with the Asian countries which are here for an official visit.

In this meeting, while Sultan Husayn, minister of planning of the RA was also present, the sides discussed matters concerning to technico-economic and commercial cooperations between the two countries.

Draft Cooperation Documents Signed

LD2901073690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0509 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 28, BAKHTAR—Draft of seven documents on economic-technical cooperations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union were initialled by the representatives of the Ministries of Planning and Commerce of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) and the

delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of the Soviet Union here today.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that among the documents the Afghan-Soviet inter-governmental agreement on the delivery of the Soviet gratis aid to the RA valued 120,000,000 roubles for 1990 is also included.

The documents were initialled on the Afghan side by Ahmad Fahim Marufi and Ahmad Shahin [names as received], deputy ministers of Planning and Commerce Ministries of the RA and on the Soviet side by D. Vladimirovich, vice president of the General Department of the Ministry of Cooperation with Asian Countries and Foreign Economic Relations of the Soviet Union.

The documents are due to be signed by the higher authorities of the governments of the RA and the Soviet Union in the very near future, a source of the Afghan Planning Ministry stated.

India

Official To Apprise U.S. of Kashmir Situation

BK0102080290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh, left New Delhi this morning for Washington as part of India's diplomatic initiative to counter Pakistan's disinformation campaign on the Kashmir issue. Mr Singh will apprise the U.S. leadership of the latest developments in Kashmir, with special emphasis on Pakistan's interference in India's internal affairs.

The foreign secretary had undertaken a similar mission to Moscow earlier this week to foil Pakistan's attempt to internationalize the Kashmir issue. The Soviet Union has expressed continuous support to India's security, stability, and integrity and considered Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part of the country. The Soviet foreign minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze's, condemnation of Pakistan's interference in Kashmir was unequivocal.

Yaqub Khan Statement Termed 'Direct Incitement'

BK3101160990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] India has made it clear that the only issue which remains to be resolved in Kashmir is Pakistan's vacation of the territory illegally occupied by it. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry asserted this in New Delhi today, adding that Kashmir is, and will continue to be, an integral part of India.

Describing the Pakistan foreign minister's broadcast on Kashmir over Pakistan radio and television yesterday as regrettable and containing distorted assertions, the spokesman said this was direct incitement to subversion, violence, and terrorism in the Indian territory.

It may be recalled that Mr Yaqub Khan had in his address extended Pakistan's full support to the so-called struggle for self-determination in Jammu and Kashmir. He had also made several provocative remarks and gave a highly exaggerated account of the happenings in the Kashmir valley. The spokesman said the foreign minister's remarks indicate that Pakistan has made it an official policy to continue its interference in India's internal affairs, which cannot promote good relations between the two countries. On the other hand, an attempt to justify the policy can cause tension in the region.

The union home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, has warned Pakistan against exploiting and globalizing the Kashmir issue. He said Islamabad should be careful in assessing India's capability to defend its integrity. Addressing a crowded meet-the-press program at Calcutta today, the home minister said that Pakistan is trying to destabilize the situation in Kashmir even after its bitter experience of previous wars against India.

His 40-minute conversation with newsmen mainly concentrated on the Kashmir situation and Pakistan's interference. He reiterated that India has not violated the Simla Accord.

Later, speaking at a seminar in the city, the home minister called for mobilizing public opinion against terrorism in a sustained manner to break the disinformation network created by terrorists to misguide the people. He sought the cooperation of all political parties to isolate the devisive and secessionist forces.

Our Calcutta correspondent adds that the home minister criticized the remarks of the Pakistan foreign minister and reiterated that terrorists and subversive forces are getting support from across the border.

Taking a serious view of Islamabad's stand, the minister of state for defense, Dr Raja Ramanna, has said India is ready to face any challenge.

Envoy Tells Kuwait of Infiltration From Pakistan

BK0102011090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0035 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] India has told Kuwait that the current situation in Kashmir has been brought about by terrorist activities aided and abetted by Pakistan. This has been conveyed by the visiting secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr Muchkund Dubey, to the Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, during his discussions in Kuwait yesterday [31 January].

Our Gulf correspondent, Jagmohan Mathur, reports that Mr Dubey told the Kuwaiti minister that terrorist activities in Kashmir are due to the infiltration of armed and trained terrorists from Pakistan. Mr Dubey gave India's assessment of recent discussions with Mr Abdus Sattar and Sahabzada Yaqub Khan of Pakistan. Mr Dubey

reiterated that the new government in New Delhi is committed to the goal of normalization of relations with Pakistan and other neighboring countries and is adopting a constructive and positive attitude.

In Tamil Nadu, the Indo-Arab Friendship Association has appealed to the governments of Islamic countries to pressurize Pakistan to desist from supporting secessionist elements in Kashmir. Copies of resolution passed to this effect at its emergency meeting held in Madras yesterday have been sent to the heads of Arab governments and the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh. The association has expressed its concern over the intervention of Pakistan in India's internal affairs.

5 'Intruders From Pakistan' Killed in Jammu

BK3101144390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Five intruders from Pakistan were killed by the Border Security Force [BSF] early this morning in the Sunderbani sector of the line of control in Jammu.

A BSF spokesman told our Jammu correspondent that seven intruders from the Pakistan side entered the Indian territory around 0400 this morning. When challenged, they fired on the BSF party, which returned the fire, killing five of them. The two managed to escape under cover of thick fog and darkness.

Curfew Eased in Kashmir; Situation 'Near Normal'

BK0102052490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, with the improvement of situation, the curfew has been relaxed for 12 hours in Srinagar from 0500 this morning. There is no day curfew in other towns.

An official spokesman told our correspondent that the situation is near normal throughout the Kashmir valley, and no major untoward incident has been reported during the last 7 days.

Meanwhile, police arrested yesterday in Anantnag a house owner and three of his agents who had set on fire some shops to get those evacuated from the tenant shopkeepers.

Rightist Party Urges Tough Stand Toward Pakistan

BK3101125990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1250 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 31 (AFP)—India's most powerful rightist party Wednesday urged the government to be tough with Pakistan after accusing Islamabad of supporting a violent campaign for secession in Kashmir State.

"The government should adopt a tough policy and take all precautions to ensure the security of our borders," General Secretary Krishan Lal Sharma of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) told a news conference here.

"Pakistan should not underestimate the repercussions of any misadventure against India," he added, a day after Pakistan asked India to hold a plebiscite in the disputed Jammu and Kashmir State.

The BJP, like the Indian Government which it supports, has repeatedly accused Pakistan of backing Muslim rebels fighting to secede Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state. Islamabad has refuted the charge.

More than 100 people have died since the start of January in violence linked to the Muslim militant campaign in Kashmir.

Mr. Sharma also urged New Delhi to "expose" Pakistan by issuing a white paper on Islamabad's alleged interference in the Indian states of Punjab, where Sikh separatists are campaigning for independence, and Jammu and Kashmir.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their wars since gaining independence in 1947 over Kashmir.

On Sunday, a senior BJP leader and a former foreign minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, said New Delhi's relations with Pakistan had taken the worst beating since the last war in December 1971.

Party Leaders Condemn Pakistan's Kashmir Stand

BK3101155590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, has warned Pakistan that any attempt to interfere in India's internal affairs will not be tolerated. Speaking to newsmen in Lucknow today, he expressed satisfaction over the improvement in the situation in Kashmir Valley.

The president of the Himachal Pradesh unit of the BJP, Mr Shanta Kumar, and the vice president of Madhya Pradesh units, Miss Uma Bharati, have welcomed the center's steps to deal with the situation in Kashmir.

The Congress-I has also condemned Mr Yaqub Khan's remarks. The party spokesman, Mr M.J. Akbar, told newsmen in New Delhi today that these are openly provocative and called for a befitting reply by the government.

Finance Minister Rejects Ending Economy Controls

BK3001034290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The finance minister, Professor Madhu Dandavate, has ruled out removal of controls on the economy as such measures in an economy of shortages will go against the interests of the vulnerable sections of the society.

In a pre-budget talk on the challenges to the economy in Bombay yesterday, Professor Dandavate said the government will simplify the fiscal rules and procedures in such areas as MRTP [Monopolies and Restricted Trade Practices] Act, FERA [Foreign Exchange Regulation Act], and particularly the taxation laws and plug all loopholes against the evasion. The minister said the government will also take steps against black money operations, which not only keep on generating inflation but also distorted priorities in the growth process in the development programs.

The finance minister said import of nonessentials like luxury items will not be allowed by the government, while selective items in critical areas will be allowed.

On the economic growth policy, the finance minister said emphasis will be given on the decentralized sector, the rural area, and agriculture. It will also lay emphasis on employment generation.

Andhra Pradesh Police Release 6 Naxalites

BK0102050990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The Andhra Pradesh police have released six under-trial Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] yesterday in response to a demand of the Naxalites, who kidnapped 11 persons, including 4 police officials in Nizamabad, Karimnagar, and East Godavari Districts.

Meanwhile, the Naxalites in Nizamabad District told newsmen that they were considering the appeal made by Mr Ganapati, secretary, People's War Group, to release the police officials. The police have established contact with the Naxalites in East Godavari District and efforts are on to get the kidnapped district education officers released.

Naxalites Release Policemen

BK0102080690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, four kidnapped policemen, including a sub inspector, have been released unharmed. They, along with seven other persons, were kidnapped by the Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] on Sunday [28 January] in Nizamabad District. An agency quoting official sources in Hyderabad said that the policemen were released in the jungle areas of the district in the early hours of this morning.

Earlier, the state police released six under-trial Naxalites yesterday in response to a demand of the Naxalites, who kidnapped 11 persons.

AISSF Urges Boycott of 'Militant Sikh Groups'

BK2901035890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] The All India Sikh Students Federation [AISSF] has accused four militant Sikh organizations of dragging Sikhs in the fratricidal war and called upon Sikhs to boycott them. These organizations are Khalistan Commando Force, Khalistan Liberation Army, the Babbar Khalsa International, and the AISSF-Daljit faction. A resolution to this effect was passed at a meeting of the federation in Amritsar. The AISSF president, Mr Manjit Singh, presided over the meeting.

Oil, Gas Production Increase in Western Region

BK3001092390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Crude oil production in the western region touched an all time high of 6.74 million tons last year. This has been achieved by accelerating the exploration efforts and adopting new drilling techniques.

An ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Commission] spokesman told newsmen that the total gas supply during the year was about 922 million cubic meters as compared to 825 million cubic meters in the previous year. The western region also produced 41,567 tons of LPG [liquified petroleum gas] in 1989.

It is planned to develop expeditiously the newly discovered structures like Bethiraji, Gandhar, and Nanda in the region. The government has already approved over 1,819 crore rupees for the integrated development of the Gandhar belt.

Oil Commission Formulates Development Plan

BK3101080790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] The Oil and Natural Gas Commission [ONGC] has drawn up a detailed development plan for the (Bekaraji) field in north Gujarat. The plan envisages drilling of about 140 wells. It will enhance the coverable reserves from 3 million tons to 4 million tons and raise the production rate to about 15,000 barrels a day by 1995. The field at present produces about 388 barrels a day from six wells, and its estimated reserves are 30 million tons.

According to a spokesman, drilling of two horizontal wells are being tried for the first time in an on-land area by the ONGC in this field and are expected to produce seven times more than the normal vertical wells.

Iran

President Welcomes Approval of 5-Year Plan

NC0102071090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] At a meeting yesterday afternoon under the chairmanship of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the members of the cabinet paid their respects to the celestial spirit of Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They congratulated the great Iranian nation on the commencement of the "10

Days of Dawn" and prayed to God Almighty for the victory and well-being of the martyr-nurturing ummah under the aegis of the directives of the imam of the ummah, may his soul rest in peace, and the lofty leader of the revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i.

Our correspondent reports that during this meeting, the cabinet expressed satisfaction with the approval of the 5-Year Plan for economic, social, and cultural development by the Majles, and on the constructive views expressed by the Council of Guardians, and expressed its gratitude for the efforts of the Majles and the Council of Guardians.

The cabinet also recalled the emphasis by the lofty leadership that the approval of the 5-year plan is one of the most important decisions of the revolutionary and Islamic system, and designated 11 Bahman [31 January] as Planning Day.

During yesterday's meeting, the cabinet also continued its discussions on the addenda to the 1369 [year beginning 21 March 1990] budget, and ratified some of the addenda.

At the end of the meeting, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave an exclusive interview to our correspondent and spoke about the results of the session. We invite you to listen to this interview.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Hashemi- Rafsanjani, the first plan for the Islamic Republic's economic, social, and cultural development has been approved by the Majles and endorsed by the Council of Guardians. We have been informed that the topic was also discussed during the cabinet meeting which you just left. Please tell us when and how the cabinet will begin to implement this bill.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. Yes, thanks to the efforts of the Majles deputies and the honorable members of the Council of Guardians, the bill on the 5- year plan received final approval. This was discussed during the cabinet meeting. Fortunately, on the eve of the 11th anniversary of the i10 Days of Dawn," and exactly 1 day before the anniversary of his eminence the imam's return to the homeland, we now have a 5-year plan with the step taken by the Majles [as heard] today. This is an important day in the history of our revolution. We discussed this during the cabinet meeting as one of the fundamental and decisive actions of the system. Thus, we have designated today, 11 Bahman, as Planning Day which will be marked every year before the "10 Days of Dawn" ceremony when an assessment will be made of the implementation of the plan, ways to improve the plan, and other matters pertaining to the plan.

The cabinet sincerely thanked the Majles and the Council of Guardians. They were able to achieve a difficult task in a short time. Their efforts were good. The cabinet thanked the Plan and Budget Organization, the experts who worked on the plan, and the Majles Planning Committee for their good efforts. The other Majles committees, each of which worked in their specialized area, were also thanked.

A point was made by the lofty leader of the revolution a couple of days ago when we were received by him, and this became a new directive for us. He pointed out that from now on planning will be considered as a value in the country, and that activities should be implemented within the framework of the 5-year plan. Those who carry out their duties in implementing the plan should be encouraged. Those who show weaknesses should be taken to task, and the entire attitude of the country should be geared toward living with a program and within the framework of this 5-year plan which has now been ratified so that, God willing, we will not have to live on the basis of day-to-day decisions.

We hope that the government too will be able to carry out its duties. This was emphasized at the cabinet meeting today and all the ministers declared their decision to try to implement the plan with precision and perseverence, God willing.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] You are welcome. [end recording]

President Recalls Khomeyni's Return in 1979

LD0102105790

[Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service at 0744 GMT on 1 February broadcasts a live 20-minute speech by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani delivered at the side of Ayatollah Khomeyni's tomb in the Behesht-e Zahra cemetary area on the occasion of the first day of the "10 Days of Dawn" celebrations marking Khomeyni's return to Iran in 1979.

hashemi-Rafsanjani begins his speech by congratulating everyone present, and he goes on to recount the "turbulent and uncertain" circumstances in which Imam Khomeyni returned from France. The enemy was on the attack everywhere trying to contain our Islamic revolt, Hashemi-Rafsanjani says, but Khomeyni was unperturbed by the dangers involved, because he relied on God and divine guidance on the one hand, and on the people's support and presence on the scene on the other. If Khomeyni had not returned then it is not clear what the fate of the revolution would have been. It was the people's confidence in him that also brought about those great events.

He goes on to say that once Khomeyni arrived people could feel secure and feel relieved. Hashemi-Rafsanjani notes that he himself was among the people and felt this strongly when he saw him entering the airport building.

We then went through the difficulties of countering the plots of the enemies of Islam and the revolution, he says. They tried to defeat us and used every means and conspiracy they could against us including war and economic blockades, he contends. The lessons of our

revolution and experience is that if a nation is resistant, nothing and nobody can hurt it. This is a lesson which the imam always taught us, he adds.

He expresses hope that revolutionary nations will also learn from what Iran learnt. We salute today our martyrs and all those who selflessly gave their lives for the sake of Islam and revolution, he concludes.

President, Khamene'i on Revolution's Anniversary

LD2901203490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the eve of the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran and to obtain assistance from the divine benedictions and favors of the holy imam of the age—may our souls be sacrificed to him—and the blessings of the pure soul of his eminence, Imam Khomeyni—may his dust be sanctified—a meeting that overflowed with goodwill and joy took place among state officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the residence of Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be received in Paradise—in the presence of the leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i.

At this meeting, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani first presented an analyis of world developments, saying: Two poles of power in the world that were hitherto at odds with each other are today establishing harmony between themselves, and global arrogance is directing its efforts at preventing the emergence of a new and powerful Islamic pole that could disturb its goals and plans. This is because aggressive and expansionist powers consider the Islamic movement and unity a serious threat to them, and they strongly oppose it.

The president expressed appreciation and gratitude to the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the Council of Guardians for passing the government's 5-year program, and he declared that the government is ready to implement it fully.

Next, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, recited a noble verse. [Koranic verse omitted] He paid tribute to the characteristics of the gracious and noble imam in relation to that divine verse. In his remarks he described the importance of the earnest efforts made by state officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to move successfully toward achieving the elevated objectives of the system.

He stated: The great developments in the world and the changing state of the world's geopolitical order now taking place spring from the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran. The Islamic revolution was a great miracle which came about by means of the late imam—may his dust be sanctified. Since the imam always stressed the act of revolt for the sake of God, the Almighty made such a great change attainable through his powerful and miraculous hands. It is up to us now to think of God always, in our movements, deeds, and speech, and for his sake be hostile to His enemies and friendly to His friends.

The leader of the Islamic revolution then explained the divine objectives and the humanitarian and Islamic values of the revolution. He noted that the aspirations and aims of the revolution are based on the two fundamental pivots of doctrine and the people. He stressed that relentless efforts to achieve social justice and to combat poverty, insecurity, and illiteracy, based on Islam's noble teachings, are the main platform of domestic policy.

The vice regent [Vali-ye 'Amr] of the Muslims, declared that prestige [ezzat], wisdom [hekmat], and expediency [maslehat] are the three important and fundamental principles in foreign policy. He stressed the need to preserve the country's all-around independence, saying: We should make moral soundness, piety, and detachment from the materialistic world govern our deeds and behavior, for it is only under these circumstances that the rule of the pious will be realized, and we will then have the destiny that the Almighty has decreed for the pious.

The leader of the Islamic revolution stressed the planning of affairs in the cycles of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [sentence as heard] He said: Planning, observing, and following programs should be considered a value and principle. The 5-year program is the opening of a path which should receive the serious attention and care of all state officials of the system in the reconstruction decade. [passage omitted]

This gathering ended in a spiritual atmosphere in which congregational prayer was led by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution.

The following were present at this ceremony: the heads of the three branches; Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni; members of the Council of Guardians; members of the Expediency Discernment Council; deputies of the Islamic Majles; officials of the judiciary branch, accompanied by deputies and advisers of the head of the judicial branch; the first vice president; deputies and advisers of the president; heads of organizations affiliated to the presidential office; ministers, deputies of ministries, and heads of organisations linked to ministries; governors-general from all over the country; members of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution; heads and representatives of the vice regency of the jurisconsult in the Islamic Revolution Martyrs Foundation, Foundation of the Oppressed and Selfless Devotees of the Islamic Revolution, the Imam Khomeyni Relief Committee, the Red Crescent of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, the Hajj, the Religious Endowment and Charity Organization, the Housing Foundation of the Islamic Revolution, the Iliteracy Corps, and the 15th Khordad Foundation; representatives of the vice regency of the jurisconsult in universities; the officials and managers of the Voice and Vision

Organization; the manager of IRNA; and managers of newspapers with wide circulations.

Karrubi Cited on Anniversary, Jewish Emigration

LD3101222190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Excerpt] During the open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly on Wednesday morning [31 January], Majles Speaker Karrubi expressed congratulations on the 11th anniveresary of the victory of the Islamic revolution and regret at the absence of the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise. He recalled the process of the revolution's movement and the attacks against it by foreign and internal enemies and said [announcer-read]:

The people's resistance, under the leadership of our dear imam during those years, made the revolution durable and stronger and made the enemies of Islam, more than ever before, disappointed.

Recalling the memory of his eminence the imam's return to the country and the people's unique reception, he said: Tomorrow, on the anniversary of that glorious day, we will gather at the immaculate shrine of our imam and again expressing our allegiance with his immaculate soul, we will promise to continue the path of the revolution.

Referring to the sensitivity of the revolution's situation following the demise of his eminence the imam, the Majles speaker asked people to celebrate the ceremonies of the "10 Days of Dawn" and, in particular, the 22d of Bahman [1 February] more magnificently than ever.

In another part of his remarks, the Majles speaker criticized the Zionist propaganda encouraging immigration of Jews, from various parts of the world and in particular the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, to the occupied territories and announced: Although some freedom-seeking Arabs have cried in protest against these actions of the Zionist regime, the Arab reactionaries [mortaje'in-e arab] have still remained silent. The Majles speaker added: We call on world Muslims to cry out their hatred and protests against this action. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Predicts Downfall of 'West'

LD3101164190 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution today received a group of foreign personalities who are here to participate in the 8th Islamic Thought Conference, on the occasion of the 10-day dawn, marking the anniversary of the Islamic revolution's triumph in Iran.

The guests presented a report to Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i on the situation of Muslims in their respective countries as well as general issues of the Islamic world.

Ayatollah Khamene'i said although there have been numerous plots against the Islamic revolution since the day of its triumph in 1979, none was able to slow down the pace of Islamic movements around the the world. On the contrary, the plots helped in promoting Islam around the globe, he added.

He said until now the Islamic Republic was the only country having the 'Neither-East-Nor-West' motto, but today this slogan is being heard and achieved throughout the world. "The Neither-East slogan has come true because there is no East any more," said the leader, and predicted that "the West will eventually end up like the East, although its turn may come a little later."

He said Muslims can never be awed or deceived by the superficial power of the enemy, and will never be tired of fighting it. "Those who will be tired and helpless in the end, will be global arrogance and the foes of Islam," he added.

Even if all powers in the world decide to gang up together and deprive humanity of faith, they will never succeed and will fail miserably, "because," reasoned Ayatollah Khamene'i "materialist powers are too weak and feeble to resist divine will."

He cautioned that the ummah is faced with two enemies, namely blasphemy and hypocrisy. "Islam is not only fighting the infidels but is also struggling against hypocrites and reactionaries which try to distort Islam," the ayatollah said.

The foreign guests included Lebanese 'Alim Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Lebanon's Hizballah official Husayn al-Musawi, Delhi Friday prayer leader Imam 'Abdallah Bukhari, Washington prayer leader Shaykh Mohammad al-'Asi, member of leadership board of Malaysia's Islamic Party Hadi Oung, leader of Lebanon's Islamic Tawhid Movement Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban and head of London's Muslim Institute Dr. Kalim Siddiqi.

Speaks to Visitors on Islam

LD3101180590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Excerpts] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i today received Seyyed Husayn Musavi, one of the officials of the Lebanese Hizballah; Seyyed 'Abdallah Bukhari, the Friday imam of the Delhi Mosque; Shaykh Muhammad al-'Asi, the Friday imam of the Washington DC mosque; Ustad Hadi Avang, member of the presidium of the Malaysian Islamic Party; Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of Islamic Tawhid Movement and the Friday imam of Tripoli in Lebanon; Dr. Kelim Siddiqi, president of the London Islamic Institute; and 'Allamah Seyyed Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, one of the great 'ulema of Lebanon. He received them separately on the occasion of the auspicious "10 Days of Dawn." [passage omitted]

Thanking the visitors and wishing success to all the world Muslims, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said:

Since the beginning of the victory of the Islamic revolution ample efforts were made and plots hatched against that revolution. However, not only did the plots fail to have an impact on the trend of the Islamic movements in the world—on the contrary we see that Islam is daily expanding thanks to help from God. [passage omitted] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i then said:

There was a time when the slogan "Neither East nor West" was the only slogan and the correct line of Islam. Today this slogan is being realized all over the world; the "Neither East" part has fully materialized. There is no longer any East. Ultimately, the West will meet the same fate as that of the East—only its turn may come later. Eventually, the world of the West and arrogance will disintegrate. As a result, today the Muslims of the world have a grave responsibility to present the original and pure Islam of Muhammad. [passage omitted]

The guardian of the Muslims' cause said: The apparent power of the enemy cannot deceive us; the campaign against the enemy shall not tire us. Those who will eventually tire and lose are global arrogance and the foes of Islam.

Asserting that despite efforts in some countries to prevent Muslims from observing their Islamic rites, they continue to chant Islamic slogans with clenched fists, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution said: Even if all the powers of the world were to be mobilized to drive humanity towards infidelity, those powers would fail and eventually fall because the material powers of the world are far too weak to resist divine will and divine demand. Today we see the resurgence of Islam as a result of the powerful hand of God.

Explaining the nature of hostility to Islam, he said: Today the world of Islam faces two enemies: infidelity and discord. Islam today is not fighting infidels only; it is also fighting the current of discord and the reactionaries who present the distorted Islam to the world. [passage omitted]

New Delhi Prayer Leader Meets President

LD3101110190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Imam Bukhari, the Friday prayer leader of the Delhi mosque of New Delhi, this morning met with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In the meeting, Imam Bukhari wished everincreasing success for the Islamic Republic of Iran, while presenting a report to the president concerning the condition of Indian Muslims and the recent issues in Kashmir. He further expressed hope that the problems of Kashmir may be resolved as soon as possible.

Then Hashemi-Rafsanjani mentioned that the fate of Muslims in India is particularly important to us. Further, he provided some necessary suggestions on this matter.

FRG Deputy Economy Minister Arrives 27 Jan

NC2701074190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] The FRG deputy economy minister arrived in Tehran this morning for meetings and talks with our country's economic officials. The FRG deputy economy minister is heading a 63-man delegation during this trip.

IRNA reports that this high-ranking FRG delegation will make preparations for the second joint session of the two countries to be held at ministerial level.

Talks on Investments Begin

LD2701175690 Tehran IRNA in English 1329 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA—There are no legal impediments in the way of foreign investments in Iran provided the shares of foreign partners do not exceed 49 percent, Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance Mahdi Navab said Saturday [27 January].

In the first round of talks with visiting West German Deputy Minister of Economics Von Wuerzun, Navab noted the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic would guarantee repayment of expenses incurred on the projects.

Navab, briefing Wuerzun on Iran's five year development plan, said the policies adopted by the Islamic Republic provide potential grounds for mutual cooperation with other countries and foreign companies.

In selecting trade partners, Navab noted, Iran will give priority to countries which could help Iran increase its industrial exports.

Wuerzun said in reply that West German companies and banks were prepared to finance Iranian projects, adding that the Bonn government has foreseen especial credits for its short and semi-long term transanctions with Iran.

He also announced West Germany's readiness to increase its non-oil imports from Iran.

Among other topics discussed by the two were ways of expanding Tehran-Bonn economic and industrial cooperation.

Meets With Velayati

LD2801130190 Tehran IRNA in English 1217 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 28 IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed expansion of Tehran-Bonn relations with visiting West German Deputy Minister of Economics von Wuerzun Sunday [28 January].

Wuerzun who arrived here Saturday [27 January] at the head of a 63-man delegation to make preparations for the second joint ministerial meeting, expressed his country's keenness to participate in reconstruction projects in the Islamic Republic.

Velayati in response underlined the existence of grounds for further expansion of bilateral ties, and expressed the hope that West Germany would actively participate in Iran's five-year plan.

He also referred to Iraqi efforts to block the execution of the U.N. Resolution 598 and called on all world countries to take steps for enforcement of the same.

Last night, Wuerzun and his entourage met First Deputy Energy Minister Majid Qasemi Saturday who briefed them on Iran's plan to build dams and power stations.

Joint Communique Issued

LD2901144890 Tehran IRNA in English 1324 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA—A joint communique was issued Monday [29 January] at the end of the four-day visit to Tehran of the Deputy Minister of Economics of the Federal Republic of Germany Von Wuerzen.

The two sides discussed different channels to expand bilateral cooperation in the framework of the first economic, social, cultural development plan of the Islamic Republic.

The preliminary session of the joint economic commission was held headed by the two countries' director generals of the economic ministries in which grounds for mutual cooperation were discussed.

It was decided that preparations for the holding of the joint commission be made through direct bilateral negotiations and the exchange of expert delegations in various fields of post, telegraph and telephone, transportation, housing and urban development, agriculture, taxation issues, technical and professional training and research and technology.

The Iranian party underscored different mechanisms which can be employed to increase the volume of mutual transactions and cooperation in technical and economic fields under the framework of countertrade, export of industrial products from Iran, providing the financial resources for the execution of productive projects and joint investments.

To increase the volume of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, the German party said the 'Hermes Insurance' will increase the ceiling of guarantee for long term transactions to DM 500 million and the existing limitations in short terms dealing will be removed.

Also, representatives of German banks expressed their willingness to continue and expand financial cooperation in connection with the mutual trade and to participate in the implementation of economically viable projects considered under Iran's first five-year plan by exploring possible financial structures in support of German suppliers.

Von Wuerzen arrived here Saturday [27 January] accompanied by representatives from various ministries and different German economic circles.

During his stay here, Von Wuerzen met with ministers of foreign and economic and financial affairs, as well as the governor of the Central Bank, and head of the Atomic Energy Organisation and discussed political, economic issues of mutual interest.

Turkish Prime Minister Accepts Invitation

LD3001102390 Tehran IRNA in English 0924 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Ankara, Jan. 30, IRNA—A written message from Iran's First Vice President Hasan Habibi was submitted to the Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akublut in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Reza Baqeri here today.

Habibi in the message has invited Akbulut to visit Iran next February when Irano-Turkish joint economic commission is to be held in Tehran.

Akbulut accepted the invitation and underlined the significance of the two countries' historical relations. He also stressed the need for further consolidation of the existing ties between Turkish and Iranian nations.

Expansion of bilateral relations, key issues of mutual interests in the region and in the international arena were also discussed in the meeting.

Commentary Views Popular 'Unrest' in Kuwait

LD2501140390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1054 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Good day to you, dear listeners. "The Continuation of Unrest in Kuwait" is the title of our first political commentary for today, to which I draw your attention.

The pressure being brought by the people of Kuwait on the government of that country to reopen parliament and establish an open political climate has increased, yet again, during the past 2 weeks, the people's demonstrations were met with aggressive reaction by security forces. The Kuwaiti Parliament was dissolved three years ago by order of the Amir of Kuwait. Even though the Kuwaiti Government blamed parliament for creating turmoil in the country, informed political sources believe there were other reasons the Amir dissolved

Kuwait's Parliament. Several deputies were affiliated to Islamic and intellectual factions in Kuwait, and opposed and questioned some of the government's policies. On the other hand, the Kuwaiti Parliament began its work when the war imposed on Iran by Iraq was still in progress, and some of the deputies strongly criticised the policies of the ruling al-Sabah family in supporting Iraq in this war. These same sources say the Iraqi regime still wants to see a weak Kuwait, as a neighbor, to fulfill Iraq's old expectations.

Apart from this, the extension of an open political climate in Kuwait has threatened other regimes in the region, such as Saudi Arabia, with some danger since the Saudi regime has neither a constitution nor a parliament; and the dictatorial family rule of the House of Al-Saud over Arabia does not leave room for any activities that smack of even the slightest hint of democracy.

In any case the dissolution of parliament by the Amir of Kuwait, which was also the result of external pressures, did not prevent the people of that country from forgetting their demands for a more open political climate; and gatherings in special places called the diwaniyyahs continued. And these diwaniyyahs, which are connected more to former deputies, attracted larger and larger crowds; to such an extent that last week the government drew on 10-year-old emergency regulations to disperse with police assistance the several-thousand-strong gathering of people in the capital district. All the same, the Kuwaiti Government has realized that it cannot hold its ground in the face of the people's demands. [passage omitted].

On Tuesday night [23 January], the police once again attacked a gathering of people and at least five demonstrators were arrested, according to official figures. The next day the Kuwaiti crown prince was forced to meet a number of assembly deputies. It is said that during this meeting, he offered the deputies a solution on the basis of which a parliament or a consultative assembly council should be formed with the majority of its members chosen by the government. This solution is not acceptable to the majority of former parliamentarians and thus it is expected that the present squabble between the government on the one hand, and the people and former deputies of parliament on the other, will continue.

It seems, therefore, that the present situation may not last, and until an acceptable solution—which, in the opinion of many people, would be the restaging of parliamentary elections—is found, the small country of Kuwait may witness further unrest.

TEHRAN TIMES on Prospects for Change in Kuwait

NC2801142090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 22 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Are Persian Gulf Littoral States Subject to Winds of Change?"]

[Text] The Kuwaiti press in their Saturday editorials have asked for the reopening of that country's Parliament that has remained closed since 1986. In general the press in that country are calling for greater participation of the people in the national affairs.

The press campaign for assigning a greater role to the Kuwaiti people should be looked upon in the light of the demonstrations the people held last week demanding more freedom and accommodation from the regime.

By and large the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council member countries share one common feature: a hereditary monarchical system. This feature places these countries within the context of a more generalized political system termed "traditional conservative system." In this system, for a fact, people enjoy the least degree of political participation in decision making at the national level.

Yet, it has to be granted that among countries adhering to such socio-political systems Kuwait has presented rather the exception than the rule.

In Kuwait, although the pyramid of power is topped by the Al-Sabah Household, further down in the pyramid certain political freedoms have always existed. The very existence of a rather free Parliament in Kuwait has been an instance of the distinguishing features of Kuwait among other "conservative" states in the area.

But the Kuwaiti government closed down the Parliament in 1986 under the justifications arising from special conditions then prevailing in the region because of the Iraq-Iran war.

A big question is now whether the campaign of Kuwaiti press and people since last week is a repercussion of the wind of change that has been blowing in the globe recently or not.

Should Kuwaiti developments be taken as a spillover from the tidal waves of change that are creating new geopolitical conditions for the world at large?

If it is so, then a huge amount of political instability may be expected to take over one of the most strategically sensitive parts of the world. That kind of instability of course will not necesarily tally with the best interests of the West. People's greater participation in political decision making will inevitably lead to curtailing, or, at least reducing, politico-economic dependence on the foreign powers.

Another question is does the political structure in Kuwait have the ability to sustain far-reaching and not merely cosmetic reforms in the country? Such reforms will have to be viable enough to resist or curb a possible revolutionary movement in the years to come.

By and large, the recent breathtaking events in the Eastern Europe made one point clear. Predetermined plans cannot always be implemented in so far as it is rather next to impossible to predict the degree in which

people's demand for freedom may intensify. Besides, it is a fact that there exists a big gap between the people and the holders of political power in these countries. Mainly because of official corruption at the top, cosmetic reforms are not likely to bring about the needed rapprochment between people and the leadership.

Commentary on Reopening of French Embassy in Kabul

NC2901183690 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 17 Jan 90 p 11

[Hashemi Lonlanji commentary: "France—The Implementer of the U.S.-Soviet Accord in Afghanistan"]

[Excerpts] Rumors about reopening the French Embassy in Kabul are going around these days. The capital of Afghanistan, Kabul, is under a regime considered unlawful and a puppet regime, not only by Afghans themselves, but by most foreign countries including the United States. These countries do not recognize the Kabul regime officially but maintained their embassies until the Soviet troops left Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

With regard to reopening the French Embassy, one can say that given the present ties between the East and West and the fact that the KGB chief has declared 1990 the year of cooperation with the CIA, the closeness of the French and Kabul Governments is not surprising. On the other hand, the conditions prevailing in East Europe have placed the West in a predicament.

The West is not in a position to account for changes in the Eastern bloc. Despite their satisfaction with the decline of communism, the United States and its allies do not believe these developments conform with their interests.

This is because the sweeping changes in the contemporary era—the most conspicuous of which is the triumph of Islam and the defeat of communism—are not very predictable and do not definitely guarantee Western interests; in other words, they does not ensure that the West will attain its imperialist desires.

It is for this reason that West European and U.S. echelons are apprehensive. These developments, which are beyond their control, may culminate in removing the last veil from the true face of the West. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Afghan issue, clearly there are two reasons why the United States does not want the Kabul regime to fall very quickly and the mujahidin to set up victorious Islamic government: First of all, the United States has not been able to successfully move its favored pawns in Afghanistan; and second, if we set aside the fact that the United States is keeping up appearances, we become aware that most of the Islamic groups in Afghanistan do not enjoy the confidence of the United States.

Regardless of their internecine differences and their political blunders, most groups want an Islamic government, and the victory of Islam does not conform to U.S. interests. In view of the shared borders with its Muslim-inhabited republics in Central Asia, the Soviet Union is also apprehensive about establishing an Islamic government in Afghanistan. This is the reason for the superpowers' anxiety and their collusion to prevent this from happening.

The diplomatic trysts of the Kremlin and White House with former Afghan monarch Zahir Shah before the Malta summit and the secrecy surrounding their talks on the Afghanistan issue prove that they had reached a final consensus on the issue. However, as the time was not ripe to implement it, reopening the French Embassy can be considered a step in this direction.

France's action did not take place without prior consultations with the United States, but because of the favorable position France has found itself in due to the presence of French doctors in Afghanistan, Mr Mitterrand has been assigned to pave the way for Zahir Shah's return. It is a fact that Western countries have common, indivisible international interests, and it is on this basis that foreign policy is forged. [passage omitted]

What merits attention is that international political games cannot be stopped by coup d'etats based on collusion with the Khalq or Parcham factions nor by condemnation and recrimination. There is only one way and that is through coordination among all Islamic groups, whether they belong to the seven-member or nine-member coalitions or are independent groups carrying on a jihad in Afghanistan. Failing this, rigged elections, establishing miscellaneous governments outside the country, and investing in coups with Khalq faction officers will be nothing but games of self-deception.

In brief, foreign intervention and political games will not cease except through unity in the world. Even if we ignore this slogan, we will realize that while we are refraining from extending hands of brotherhood to one another, the superpowers intend to resolve the Afghanistan issue based on their own interests. Reopening the French Embassy in Kabul proves this claim.

Lebanese Sunni Leader on Military Situation

LD2901153390 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA—Prominent Lebanese Sunni alim Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban today said that the situation in Lebanon had become more complex particularly after the development of the Lebanese Army in Western Beirut.

Sha'ban, head of the Islamic Tawhid Movement [ITM], said that development of the military forces in the western section of Beirut was not a basic solution to the Lebanese crisis.

"Plans similar to this one had been implemented in Lebanon time and again but all of them fell through," Sha'ban said.

The ITM head arrived here Sunday night [28 January], accompanied by several ulema from the northern Lebanese port city of Tripoli, to participate in the 8th International Islamic Thought Conference which was inaugurated yesterday.

"The crisis in Lebanon will not come to an end unless the Middle East issue is solved, because of a linkage between the Lebanese issue and that of the Middle East and Palestine in particular," Sha'ban added.

On the situation in southern Lebanon, Sha'ban described it as being "as critical as before" but noted that due to Iran's mediation efforts inter-Shiite clashes in the region had eased.

He also called on the Islamic Republic to do all within its power to patch up differences between the Amal movement and Hizballah, by using its influence on Lebanese groups.

Paper Attacks Kremlin, West's Azerbaijan Policy

NC2901170190 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 22 Jan 90 pp 1,2

[Editorial: "A Bloody Glasnost!"]

[Text] Baku has been plunged into mourning. The bodies of the victims killed in the pointblank shootings by the forces of the Red Army are still lying in the streets. Official figures put the dead at 60. But DPA has reported that at least 3,500 were killed. This is the portion that Soviet Azerbaijan has gained from the reforms of the Kremlin leadership, a portion which by any criteria is neither just nor logical.

The recent developments in Soviet Azerbaijan have not been in conformity with any of the Kremlin leadership's remarks, promises, or deeds of recent years. Moscow even resorted to double standards in its recent efforts to justify the dispatch of its Armed and Security Forces to Azerbaijan. The troops were said to have been sent there to prevent ethnic clashes and to end the fighting between the Armenians and the Muslims. But what actually happened was that the Muslims were massacred.

Soviet society has lived through difficult years. This fact has been explicitly stated by the present officials as well. During those difficult years, the Soviet people were the victims of various forms of pressure and suppression.

The Kremlin leadership knew from the very start that the Soviet people were living under difficult and unbearable conditions and that if immediate, comprehensive, calculated, and reliable steps were not taken, the threat of a great rebellion by the masses would be inevitable and would jeopardize the future of the "country of the Soviets." This was a correct estimation of the critical situation and living conditions of the Soviet people by Mr Gorbachev and the cadres faithful to him. Perestroyka and glasnost were two comprehensive plans which the Kremlin leadership introduced and tried to implement in an effort to solve the problems and difficulties faced by the Soviet system. Perestroyka was a program for economic reform and glasnost was a method designed to achieve an open political atmosphere.

The followers of religion in the Soviet Union, who were the victims of bitter years of despotic communist rule and of the most severe inhuman pressures, felt that a favorable atmosphere to express their religious identity and to revive religion had been created in the Soviet Union and that they could be hopeful from the developments that were taking place. But what happened has made them wonder whether glasnost is not merely a plan for reform in the European part of the Eastern bloc and, generally speaking, a phenomenon that should be analyzed only within the context of a "smile at the West."

The Kremlin leadership and the Soviet mass media may reject such an assessment, but all the existing facts show that this assessment is not entirely illogical or removed from reality.

Let us remember the crumbling of the Berlin Wall and compare it with the incidents on the banks of the Aras. The East German Government did not try to attribute the crushing of the Berlin Wall to a "bunch of ruffians." The East Berlin Government used mechanical shovels, bulldozers, and other machinery to break down the Berlin Wall and spread enthusiasm among the people. It then sent a huge crowd across its borders with West Germany. But on the Azerbaijan border and on the banks of the Aras river, when border obstacles and barbed wire were destroyed under the eyes of the Soviet guards, Moscow attributed this act to "a bunch of ruffians!"

In view of the experience of the Berlin Wall, the Kremlin leadership should have been in favor of the removal of the 170 km of obstacles along its borders with Iran. Thus, the question is: Why was the crumbling of the Berlin Wall and the removal of border obstacles by the German Communist Party in the East bloc considered to be a "human rights gesture" and an act to be proud of, while here a similar attempt was attributed to "a bunch of ruffians and adventurists"?

When the Berlin Wall crumbled and 2 million people undertook an exodus toward the territory of West Germany, the East bloc and Moscow did not make any negative or sarcastic remarks on this unexpected act. What happened was that the East German Government only acted to prevent traffic chaos at the border and issued 3 million exit permits in a matter of a few days. But here, immediately after the arrival of a few thousand Muslims on this side and their acquisition of a Koran and pictures of the imam, Moscow was suddenly enraged; and now it is talking about the dispatch of arms from Iran to within Soviet borders.

Does Moscow consider a Koran and a picture of the leader of the Islamic world to be "weapons"?

If Moscow is looking for a reason to crush the Muslims, and if it is looking for an excuse to justify its double standards and biased stands on the Asian and European republics, it should know that this is not a favorable justification for the great massacre that took place in Baku.

Moscow's problem lies somewhere else. Moscow's problem is that glasnost was intended only as a plan to extend freedoms to the European side of the East bloc and that the Soviet Muslims thought this plan would apply to them too. It was precisely because of this that Mr Gorbachev's smiles over the developments in the European part of the East bloc suddenly turned into rage with the incidents in Azerbaijan, and the Kremlin leadership impatiently resorted to arms against the Azerbaijani people. In the Berlin Wall incidents, the East German border officials were even ordered to lay down their arms so no picture or film showing them with arms would be published in the West and thus make them a source of "scorn." But in Soviet Azerbaijan the tanks began to move and people were "crushed" under them. And now to justify all these killings, they are trying to allege that Iran sent arms to the Soviet Muslims. But they should be asked: Then where did the arms used by the Armenians and, specifically, the missiles which downed two helicopters in Karabakh, come from?

All these should prove to Mr Gorbachev and the cadres faithful to him that the reports and information that reached them were lies and that it was this information and these reports which led to Moscow's incorrect decisions and the bloodshed in Baku.

If anyone had been killed or crushed by a tank in Berlin or in the European part of the East bloc, even in Lithuania, the West would have described it as a great disgrace for the Kremlin leadership. Such an incident would have sparked an organized propaganda campaign against the Kremlin that would have lasted for years on end. But the massacre of 3,500 people in Baku was received by the West as a sensational news item.

If the Baku massacre had taken place in a European republic of the Soviet Union or in a country in Eastern Europe, the West would certainly have considered it a violation of human rights and would by now have imposed all sorts of political, economic, and industrial sanctions on the Soviet Union. It would have banned its exports of wheat and advanced technology to the Soviet Union and would have adopted the harshest and most despicable methods possible against the Kremlin leadership. But the West has not only remained silent in the face of the massacre of 3,500 people in Baku, it is also fanning with a sickening glee the flames of the Kremlin leadership's antireligious feelings against the Muslims.

What is the meaning of the Black House's sickening glee in supporting the violence against and massacre of Soviet Muslims by the Red Army? If the criteria are human beings, the lives of human beings, and the rights of human beings, then such criteria should not be subject to borders or to the European or Asian identity of people.

The massacre of human beings is condemned, as is the killing of Soviet Muslims at the hands of the Red Army. But the West was not able to adopt a human stand on the incidents in Azerbaijan. It welcomed these bloody incidents with satisfaction and this is most disgraceful.

Moscow and, specifically, Mr Gorbachev, should understand the meaning behind these supportive stands by the West. The West is now impatiently awaiting the exacerbation of Armed Forces violence in Soviet Azerbaijan. However, the West's intention is certainly not to help the reforms in the Soviet Union.

The West has felt that with these decisions the Kremlin leadership will eventually lose its balance. It is because of this that it is encouraging the Kremlin leadership to become increasingly involved in a more extensive crisis. However, this will only bring the Kremlin and the cadres that are faithful to Mr Gorbachev to the brink of chaos. The West has needed Gorbachev and his faction up to this point. But according to Henry Kissinger and Brzezinski—two national security advisers in the Bush administration [as published]—it is now more interested in Gorbachev's downfall and has begun to think about the post-Gorbachev era. This is something which explains much better the reason for the current stand by the West vis-a-vis the Azerbaijan incidents.

Azerbaijan 'Massacre' Condemned

NC2901154190 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 20 Jan 90 p 1

[Commentary by Mohammad Sarafraz: "The Tragic Massacre of Soviet Muslims"]

[Text] The Soviet Security and Armed Forces began trying to establish martial law in the various cities of Soviet Azerbaijan, and especially in Baku, this morning. However, a bloody battle and tragic massacre took place after the Muslims resisted.

According to reports received in recent months, Soviet Government forces have placed various arms at the disposal of Armenian forces in an effort to exert pressure on the Muslims in the Republic of Azerbaijan and have started an unequal war against the Muslims with the all-out support of the West. Both the West and the East want to portray Islamic-inspired actions as ethnic unrest and crush them.

The 60 or 70 million Muslims residing in the USSR have the potential to be a very strong force and have become a source of great concern to the superpowers.

This is not the first time that Mr Gorbachev's perestroyka has demanded blood within the Soviet borders. Meanwhile, the United States has announced its support

for Moscow in crushing the Muslims and has stated that this is the right of the Soviet Government.

The U.S. Administration—this so-called staunch defender of human rights!—considers the massacre of Muslims to be the Kremlin's natural right. In their book, Muslims cannot enjoy "human rights" and should be the victims of aggression on the grounds of their fundamentalism.

Mr Gorbachev yesterday described the Azerbaijani Muslims as extremists and fundamentalists. This is what Westerners usually do when they want to justify to public opinion their repressive acts against Muslims.

The Kremlin government's propaganda is confusing. It claims that the unrest in Azerbaijan stems from nationalistic and extremist fanaticism and tries to portray the mission of the Soviet forces as ending ethnic unrest, but it also claims that the people who were killed in the shooting were fundamentalists.

The truth is that the 16 million Azerbaijanis, the majority of whom are Shiite, are inclined toward Islam and the United States and the Soviet Union are worried about this. Why should the Kremlin government worry about these people's Islamic inclinations? Why should it arm the Armenians to exert pressures on the Muslims and create artificial ethnic clashes? Why are artillery and tanks used instead of perestroyka in the case of the Muslims? The pressure on the Muslims was so intense that 200,000 people were forced to leave their lands in Armenia and go to Baku where they are now being massacred!

The world's 1 billion Muslims will definitely not tolerate the massacre of the Muslims in Soviet Azerbaijan. This is a path along which the Soviet Government will not be able to walk successfully.

Government's Position Viewed

NC3101143990 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran Still Hopes for a Fast Solution to Azeri Crisis"]

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has been assigned by the government to take every possible step to help settle the Soviet Azerbijani crisis and prevent bloodshed in the troubled republic.

This new mission for the chief of the country's foreign policy has come at a time when Tehran is seriously concerned over the fate of the Azeri Muslims following the military crackdown on the region by the Kremlin government.

Since the very beginning of the unrest in Azerbaijan, however, the officials of the Islamic Republic have tried every means available to them to help end the crisis in peaceful ways.

Meanwhile, the USSR has not set any date for the withdrawal of Moscow-dispatched troops to the Azerbaijan Republic.

Informed sources here believe in his recent message the Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has briefed his Iranian counterpart Velayati on the amassing of troops in the northern borders of Iran.

According to these sources, Shevardnadze has assured Velayati that these troops pose no security threat at the Islamic Republic and their main objective is to maintain law and order in the troubled region.

Of course, Iran's concern over the issues goes beyond security matters. Being an Islamic Republic, Iran is earnestly concerned about the fate of Muslim communities elsewhere in the globe. As such, Iran wishes that the USSR, while exercising its sovereignty over every part of its territory, will still launch efforts to retrieve popular grievances in Azerbaijan.

Meanwhile according to informed sources Soviet Foreign Ministry's Consular Deputy Boris Chaplin's expected to arrive in Tehran on January 28, 1990.

It is believed that Chaplin will be fully authorized by President Mikhail Gorbachev to seek all possible solutions to the crisis in his talks with the leaders in Tehran.

Tehran for its part, although fully understanding the worries of the central government in USSR over the extensive unrest in one of its territories, still diligently hopes for fast settlement of the Azeri issue without further bloodshed.

It is hoped that the leaders in Moscow have not yet closed all doors to peaceful solutions of the Azerbaijani problem. Maintenance of peace and order does not necessarily means a shutdown of all avenues to peaceful settlement of the crisis. In fact peace and order should be resumed with one objective: to make possible the launching of efforts for a peaceful solution.

It is highly expected that Chaplin's Tehran visit will be substantial in establishing further understanding between the two capitals over Azeri problem and other issues.

Former Ambassador To Advise Velayati on Mideast

LD3001121390 Tehran IRNA in English 1127 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30 IRNA—Mohammad Kazem Khansari was appointed advisor to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and director general for the Middle East and North Africa. The Foreign Ministry announced Tuesday. Khansari was previously Iranian ambassador to Libya.

Tavalla'i Appointed Khuzestan Governor General

LD3001195990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The cabinet met this afternoon and continued its discussion on the budget bill for the year 1369 [21 March 1990-21 March 1991] and ratified a few more articles of that bill.

In that meeting, based on the interior minister's recommendation and with the cabinet's approval, Engineer Mohammad Hasan Tavalla'i was appointed governor general of Khuzestan Province. Furthermore, praise was expressed for the services of the former governor general of that province, Mr Mirdamadi.

$2 Billion Allocated for Port Modernization

LD2901150490 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., Jan. 29, IRNA—A sum of rials 140 billion [BN] (DRLS 2 bn) will be spent on modernizing and extending Iranian ports in the country's 5-year development plan, head of the ports and shipping organization Mohammad Madad said here Monday [29 January].

Madad said "by equipping ports and containerizing miscellaneous goods, 24,000 tons of commodities would be unloaded per 24 hours."

The official continued that efforts were underway to reconstruct Khorramshahr's port installations in Khuzestan Province, and to increase its capacity to one million tons a year by the end of the five year plan.

Khorramshahr was razed by Iraqi forces after its occupation early in the war.

Also, Madad said, preliminary studies were underway for dredging 100 kms of the southern Bahmanshir River.

Madad noted that at present 47 cargo ships were discharging their loads including wheat, corn and fertilizers at various Iranian ports along the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, with 13 others awaiting to be unloaded.

'Organized Aggression' Against Montazeri Continues

LD2901194190 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Organized aggression by the lackeys of the real power-wielders of the regime against Ayatollah Montazeri and his supporters is continuing. State Public Prosecutor Reyshahri, in a news conference, explicitly threatened Ayatollah Montazeri and his supporters. He said the Mehdi Hashemi group have embarked on a series of moves in the seminaries and the special clergymen's tribunals will be confronting them in all seriousness. It should be mentioned that at the time Mehdi Hashemi and his associates were arrested and executed, Reyshahri was the regime's intelligence minister.

National Front Allegedly Declared 'Apostate'

TA2501174890 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] The Islamic Republic regime has declared the National Front apostate. In a notice in the capital's newspapers, the Tehran revolution Prosecutor's Office summoned Dr Mehdi Azar to court as publisher of the newspaper PAYAM, organ of the apostate National Front.

By employing the label apostate, the revolution Prosecutor's Office has given itself the right to detain and imprison all members of the National Front.

*Report on 27 Dec Majles Session

90OI0118A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Dec 89 pp 5, 11

[Excerpts] Legal and Majles Department—Yesterday morning and afternoon the Majles met in public session under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

During this session, Mr Qomi spoke as the only pre-agenda speaker, and after him Mr Karrubi also spoke. Then the memos from the deputies to the nation's executive officials were read, and the Majles began its agenda.

Printed below are the remarks of Mr Qomi and Mr Karrubi, and the detailed proceedings.

Mohammad Qomi, Representative of the People of Varamin

Mr Qomi from the Varamin electoral district was the only pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's public Majles session. He began his talk by saying: I will begin by reading for the hezbollah [Partisans of God] nation and the respected deputies a quote from the late great leader of the Islamic revolution, whose thoughts must remain immortal for all ages and generations, and in this age we consider his ideas the pathfinder for humanity.

His Holiness the Imam (May His Grave Be Sanctified) said: We seek to dry up the corrupt roots of Zionism, capitalism, and communism in the world. We have decided, through the grace and blessings of Almighty God, to destroy governments that are built on these three foundations and to spread the government of the Islam of the Prophet of God (Peace Be Upon Him) throughout the world. Sooner or later, nations will recognize that. With all of our being, we will prevent the spread of the blackmail and responsibility of American agents, even if it is through your heroic struggle. God willing, we will not allow the Kaaba, the great pulpit of the Mecca pilgrimage, where the voice of our oppressed must be heard from the highest roof over humanity and the voice of unity must resonate, to become the voice of compromise with America, the Soviet Union, infidelity, and polytheism. We ask God to give us the power not only to

shout "death to America and the Soviet Union" from the top of the Kaaba, but also from the top of the churches of the world.

After quoting His Holiness the Imam (Peace Be Upon Him), Mr Qomi praised the pure spirit of the martyrs of Islam and expressed hope for the success of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: First I must thank the hezbollah nation throughout the country for taking part in the "death to America" demonstrations and supporting the oppressed people of Panama, especially in Tehran.

He added: I say to the respected officials of the government that these people have boundless loathing, anger, and disgust for America and the criminals of history, and the more decisively and the more courageously you deal with America and the Satanic powers, the more decisively the people will support you. One of the principles His Holiness the Imam emphasized was reliance on nations. Not reliance on governments, for we saw in the case of the condemned Ceausescu how the people of Romania became fed up with his oppression, and if we had supported the oppressed nation of Romania, which was acting against Ceausescu's oppression, certainly our credibility and honor would now be greater in the world. This must be a lesson for us, and we must take counsel and establish relations with oppressed nations. Most governments and systems are corrupt, most of them have deceitful minds, and most of them are thinking about enslaving oppressed nations.

We must export the Islamic revolution to the world and defend the oppressed. We must discredit the oppressors, led by the imperialists, this criminal America which has no history before it other than disgrace and loathing, which has committed crimes in the Middle East, the Far East, Africa, Asia, and everywhere else in the world. Wherever we see signs of imperialism and despotism, we will certainly see there, either visible or invisible, the presence of America. This must be a lesson for us, and we must derive a special blessing from this situation.

Elsewhere in his talk, Mr Qomi mentioned the delivery of 40 revolutionary Muslims to Egypt by Saudi Arabia. He said: There are murmurs in the air that in any case we must seek in some way to relieve the shortcomings in our foreign policy with Saudi Arabia. I want to make several points here for the information of the hezbollah nation and the respected deputies, and God willing the officials will find this especially beneficial. You may have seen last year that when the issue of relations with Saudi Arabia came up, you immediately saw horrendous crimes committed by Saudi Arabia, and you saw how it took a position against the Islamic revolution. You saw that before the triumph of the revolution Saudi Arabia supported the condemned shah until the last breath, gave him financial aid, and with all its power, even when our dear and committed workers were cutting off the flow of oil to the imperialist world, Saudi Arabia exported oil in Iran's place to strengthen the Iranian government. After the SAVAK [the shah's secret police] and those who had submitted to the shah fled and Saudi Arabia gave sanctuary to many of them in its own country, it supported them with all its might, gave them asylum, employed them in special government companies, and made use of the information they had from within the country in order to take positions against the Islamic revolution. After the triumph of the Islamic revolution, you also saw that it was Saudi Arabia that helped criminal America with all its ability in its attempt to enter Iran through the Tabas raid, and in secret documents, when former American president Jimmy Carter discussed this, Saudi Arabia was lacking in nothing, for Saudi Arabia intervened actively with all its power in the Tabas raid.

The speaker added: There are various publications that this regime now publishes with American dollars against the Islamic revolution and especially against the Shiites of the world, promoting Wahabi Islam in the farthest points of the world, writing books against the Shiites, writing pamphlets and distributing them free, sending seminary students to the farthest corners of the world, and building mosques that are active against Shiites and the Mohammadan Islam. You saw in the episode on oil prices where Saudi Arabia was willing, in order to hurt us and put pressure on us, to increase its exports and bring down the price of oil.

Despite the fearsome and bloody Mecca episode, where the hypocrites actively intervened with the utmost rudeness, an incident where more than 400 Iranian pilgrims and more than 600 pilgrims from all over the world were bloodied and laid to the ground, as well as the recent incident involving 16 Kuwaiti Muslims who were arrested for the crime of planting a bomb in Saudi Arabia in that unfortunate incident, unfortunately the international organizations and supporters of human rights have sealed their lips on the matter. We blamed America for all these things, as His Holiness the Imam would say, and God willing, at the appropriate time we will get even with them.

Continuing, he added: As a member of a martyr's family, and on behalf of all the families of martyrs, I earnestly ask the great leader, the officials of the government, His Holiness Ayatollah Meshkini, chief of the Assembly of Experts and the judicial power, yesterday when the Imam's will was distorted and they altered it, and when some of the dear brothers raised an issue in the Majles that was truly worthy of discussion, why did you opt for silence? The words of the Imam, the Imam's will, and the Imam's orders are a light on the path of the oppressed people of history, for the people of Iran, and for the entire world, and I really don't know why silence was adopted. Some people say it was a misprint. Very well, an official from the newspaper RESALAT must give an interview and officially apologize to the people of Iran and the families of the martyrs. [passage omitted]

Details of the Proceedings

The only item on the agenda of yesterday's public Majles session was continued consideration of the first 5-year

plan bill for the economic, social, and cultural expansion of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In continuing their consideration of Note 29, the deputies made proposals concerning Paragraph V which were not approved.

The agriculture and economic affairs and finance commissions proposed that the following paragraph be added to Note 29:

The Ministry of Agriculture is authorized, for the purpose of achieving self-sufficiency in the sugar needed by society and to procure some of the nation's other industrial and food needs, to establish seven sugar cane cultivation and processing units with a total area of 84,000 hectares, to establish seven raw sugar factories, one refinery, seven livestock feed units, six paper pulp units, one printing and writing paper unit, one neoprene unit, and one livestock protein unit. Four hundred million rials in credit for the project will be provided by the banking system and the Social Procurement Organization in the form of loans, and the payments on the loan will be made from the difference between the guild and industrial sugar production price at the Haft Tapeh and Karun factories and the official price of the sugar purchased from those factories, to be kept in an account with the Producer and Consumer Protection Organization. The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran is authorized, to enable the Ministry of Agriculture to carry out the above project, to make foreign exchange commitments no later than the end of the year 1370 [20 March 1992] up to $1.5 billion in such a way that in addition to the completion of the project within the agreed time, repayment over a period of five years in installments of the foreign exchange borrowed will begin no later than one year after the units go into operation out of foreign exchange saved through the project's annual production. Authorization is also given for up to two percent of the project's total credit to be spent without regard to the Public Accounting Law and the government's other general regulations, observing the Law on the Method of Spending Credit Exempted by Law from Observing the Public Accounting Law and Other Government General Regulations. The Ministry of Agriculture must report every three months to the agriculture and plan and budget commissions on the progress of the work.

Mr Fazel (Explaining the Proposal)

In his remarks explaining the proposal, Mr Fazel said: One of the projects that has been under discussion in the Council of Ministers since 1364 [21 March 1985 - 20 March 1986], both in the government of Mr Musavi and that of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani as well as in the Supreme Council of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and the Supreme Economic Council, is this very project for sugar cane and Khuzestan cultivation and agriculture, which has been treated with special sensitivity in the Majles Agriculture Commission. There were several problems with this issue which, thank God, have been solved. 1) The first problem was land. The gentlemen had brought a map, which included a lot of land in developed and rural areas as well as some lands that had been given to individuals after the revolution. The commission invited the gentlemen and they changed the map. Lands are now allocated for this project which have never been used before. 2) The second problem the Majles Agriculture Commission had was the question of whether or not there is any guarantee the project will be carried through to completion. What will we do if the studies stop? Here the Majles Agriculture Commission has provided a mechanism, which has already been approved. I think this mechanism solves the problem, and that mechanism is that the government must report every three months to the agriculture and plan and budget commissions on the progress of the work. 3) The third problem is the method of implementing the plan. First of all, various methods are provided in the project itself, and again, if the Ministry of Agriculture presents a better method, for example that this could occur by way of the cooperatives or corporations, it will be provided for the years 1370 [21 March 1991 - 20 March 1992], 1371 [21 March 1992 - 20 March 1993], and 1372 [21 March 1993 - 20 March 1994]. Therefore, the problems are not such that they will obstruct implementation of this project. However, they have raised a series of problems recently by means of statements, many of which I think, first of all have been answered and second, I think many of the figures they have given are not really correct. For example, they have said if sugar cane were converted to beets, we could get a ton of sugar from every hectare of beets in Khuzestan. In view of the average yield of beets in Khuzestan, I don't know how many tons of beets we would would have to get per hectare. Is it possible that we would be able to get 180, 190, or 200 tons of beets from one hectare in order to be able to get 21 tons of sugar? Is this possible?

He then added: Another problem they have raised is, if you allocate a lot of water for this cultivation, water that will flow into the Persian Gulf, the water level will go down, and at the coast, saline sea water will come and flood the date groves and make salt flats out of the fields. In view of the fact that every second 150 cubic meters of water flows into the the Persian Gulf, does this project involve even one percent of that water? Or for example there is the fact that to cultivate sugar cane the land must be under cultivation the whole year, while beets in Khuzestan only have to be cultivated eight or nine months. I don't mean to say that if sugar beets are planted there is no harvest. However, in view of the figures and statistics that have been given, I think this project is economically justifiable in every respect. In conclusion, Mr Fazel said: As for the jobs created by this project, there will be jobs directly created for 35,000 households and indirectly for 35,000 households. I think there is no better economic justification for the project than this. Therefore, the Majles agriculture, economic affairs and finance, and plan and budget commissions have given agreement to this project, and God willing the deputies will vote for it.

Mr Bahma'i (Opposing the Proposal)

Speaking in opposition to this proposal, Mr Bahma'i began by questioning the amount of study devoted to the project. He said: Even though there is land for what you want to do, if you want to farm on it, come and give us the details about your land, telling us what it is. Tell us what the soil composition is. Tell us what your map looks like. Give the details, what is the manner of implementation, what kind of machinery you will use, your method of draining water, you must give us your method with figures and numbers. Where is the study for this? What do you want to say to the deputies? Brothers, you must work for God, what is said must be for God. If you had studied, why did you get a budget from us this year so you could study? So you have selected this agricultural engineer who is working and who went to Khuzestan in the fertilized 'Abdollah area and the Kud-e Seyyed Saleh and concluded and said that these lands belong to the people and are arable. I don't know, what is this study of yours? Give it to the deputies.

Continuing, he added: This is a great project. You want to bring a great project to us as easy as that, I will oppose it and the brothers will sit and decide. Is this fair? We have university professors and experts in this country. In the overall economic plan we came and talked with them, why didn't you come and give this to us? You want us to borrow $1.5 billion and bear the burden of it. What is wrong with us is that first we do something, then we study. Mr respected minister! In the letter you distributed among the brothers, I am truly sorry that this insult was given to the deputies, that they came and said we studied for years. If you studied, then why didn't you tell us?

Continuing, he mentioned the reasons for his opposition: I have statistics and figures. A minimum of 120 cubic meters per second flows from Khuzestan to the Persian Gulf in the summer. If this water does not flow, the waters of the Persian Gulf will recede and make its own lands a salt flat. We have statistics, according to statistics from the Ministry of Energy, we have 270 cubic meters of water to drain into the Persian Gulf. Do you want to dry up the entire Province of Khuzestan? You talk about employment. The respected deputy from Shushtar is here crying, he says they leveled about 40 villages. About 10,000 people are unemployed, now you want to say you are going to create employment. Where have you succeeded in this? I have your statistics. These gentlemen say they want to farm the salty soil of Khuzestan. The grade four and five lands are useless. In their own book they say that sugar cane is a sensitive plant that to produce a suitable yield needs much water, relatively good soil, and desirable climatic conditions. It will not tolerate salty soil and freezing conditions. This is quite sensitive. I ask the respected brother deputies to take note, this is not an easy thing to do. It will not tolerate salty soil. The gentlemen say that we do not have freezing conditions in Khuzestan.

Mr Bahma'i discussed replacing sugar cane cultivation with other agricultural products in the country. He said: Your excellency Mr respected minister of agriculture. If you are truly concerned and you want to have greater production in this country, let's do something about the five million tons of wheat in storage which we can't unload. Why was Panama defeated? It was because of food. Therefore, let's do some planning on these things, and let the specialists sit and study and make decisions.

Mr Salamati (Supporting the Proposal)

Mr Salamati supported this proposal and discussed the work on this project. He said: Work on this project began six or seven years ago, and the preparations have been made. The five books on this project are the result of hundreds of meetings of experts and responsible and committed people. In 1368 [21 March 1989 - 20 March 1990] we allocated a huge sum for this in accordance with Note 44 to make the preparations more evident. The issue mainly being raised here, however, is the question of whether the project is economical or not. Is the Khuzestan area suitable for the cultivation of sugar cane? If it is, then the project to cultivate sugar cane is quite favorable. This is the very reason why Khuzestan is known as the land of sugar. The capacity to grow sugar cane in Khuzestan has been high since ancient times, and it has been good farm land.

Continuing, he added: We now see that Australia produces 70 tons per hectare of sugar cane, 60 tons in Cuba, 60 tons in Brazil, 25 tons in Pakistan, and 25 to 30 tons per surface unit in India. In Iran, however, we see that we produce hundreds of tons and sometimes more of sugar cane. When we take the statistics into consideration, the average production over a 27-year period was 92.23 percent production per unit, meaning the production in tons was per surface unit and hectare, and 9.06 percent of that is sugar, in hectares, but we see that world production in 1985 is 60,000 tons. The sugar produced is 3.9 percent, meaning that the production of sugars in the surface units is close to three times the level of world production. This in itself is a significant figure. With this work we want to do, we can see that total world [as published] production is 100,000 tons, 75 percent of which will be consumed within our country. Of the 25,000 tons remaining, 15,000 tons will be used in interim contracts and mutual relations and will be contracted, and the other 10,000 tons will be marketed internationally. With these units that we will build, with this industrial cultivation we will create, we will produce 700,000 tons of sugar per year. That means that we will have the ability to maneuver about 10 percent of the sugar on the world market, meaning we will be able to take over and control ten percent of the market. Yet now, we import 700,000 to 800,000 tons of sugar that we need. You see than in the next few years (in 1375 [21 March 1996 - 20 March 1997]) we will need 1.75 million tons of sugar. If we take the need of 25 kilograms per person into consideration, at that time, if we do not make preparations now, we will have to import more than a million tons. Therefore, why don't we aim for

production? If we carry out this project, we will be able to sell 18 billion tomans per year in sugar, and likewise with neoprene, paper and other items in this project, it is a project that can recover its costs in 3 years. One of the problems being discussed with regard to this project is the matter of the area's climate, which is a positive factor for growing sugar cane. That is, when it gets cold, the quantity of the sugar in sugar cane increases. According to the statistics we have, in the last 27 years there were heavy losses only one or two years, and of these one or two years, one year was more than the others, which was in the year 1351 [21 March 1972 - 20 March 1973]. In 1351, although there were great losses and the level of heat was lower, it was unprecedented there and we see that we again have production which is first-class.

In conclusion he also added: This project can add 20 percent to agricultural production and at the same time it can expand the auxiliary industries.

Commission Expert Comments

Mr Hadi Ghaffari, an expert on the Majles Plan and Budget Commission, gave his reasoning in a talk. He said: As for the region's lack of executive capability to put seven units into operation simultaneously, due to our accomplishments in the Mian Ab and Sha'biyeh units and in our other development projects in Mian Ab and the Sha'biyeh projects, if we succeeded in those, God willing in these seven years we will also be successful. The reason for the lack of confidence that we will reach the goals set in projects is due to the nation's inability to use some of the current capacities in Karun and Haft Tapeh, which is most unfortunate. The lack of confidence that the projects will be completed within the five-year term of the plan is due to the fact that Mian Ab is at most half-completed, contrary to the preliminary estimate, the expected time required has doubled and its credit has also more than doubled so far, and has increased more than 50 percent. According to the views of most experts and even the selected consultants, the study of phases one and two will in all seriousness take a minimum of more than 3 years until the executive maps are prepared for these seven projects. The reason is the Sha'biyeh unit, which began in 1367 [21 March 1988 - 20 March 1989] and which will be studied until 1369 [21 March 1990 - 20 March 1991]. One of the problems facing the executive organizations is the lack of a suitable unit at the economic level for guiding and leading projects to completion in Tehran. Now, to carry out our major tasks, their staff units, which must give full guidance, have no executive operations or active economic unit. Unfortunately, since they have no active leadership unit, these will be sacrificed in any case.

Concerning this project's water situation, he said: I will read the decisive view of the respected minister of power for you. You see that the Khuzestan Water and Electricity Organization, in addition to the 4,000 hectares mentioned above that we now have, has been able to succeed just by procuring water for the 25,000 hectares including 5,000 at Mian Ab, 10,000 at Sha'bieh, and 10,000 hectares north of Ahvaz. In view of these instances, the minister of energy considers any commitment beyond the above instances to procure water for sugar cane production to be impractical and it declares that all previous writing are null and void. This is the expert work of Mr Zanganeh, minister of energy.

Continuing, Mr Ghaffari added: The rapid movement of technology in the use of technology for sugar cane production does not allow us to have a long-range plan. Certainly with respect to machinery and technology, by the time we are ready to go into operation this type of work will be technologically outmoded. There is a lack of clarity concerning the system of utilizing this in the future, and now it is not clear whether or not the current government system will be retained. Likewise, if we borrow $1.5 billion now, we will not have 10 tons per hectare as Mr Salamati said, there will be a maximum of 6.9 tons per year in 1367 [21 March 1988 - 20 March 1989], not ten tons. I say this to you, for the commission has not done expert work in this area.

Dr Kalantari (Minister of Agriculture)

As the government's representative, Dr Kalantari continued the discussion and said at the outset: I say to you that Mr Ghaffari has given his own views and not those of the commission.

Continuing, he answered Mr Bahma'i's questions. He said: Dear brother, in the last 27 years there was an average of nine tons and 100 kilograms per hectare of sugar cane production despite the factory being bombed in 1364 [21 March 1985 - 20 March 1986], 1365 [21 March 1986 - 20 March 1987], and 1366 [21 March 1987 - 20 March 1988]. The same areas our brother says are not suitable for sugar cane production have produced nine tons and 100 kilograms per hectare of sugar cane, along with an additional ton of meat produced per hectare. Nine tons and 100 kilograms per hectare of sugar cane and one ton of meat, and moreover the lands designated for the project have a lower temperature than the area north of Ahvaz, for in the Dezful and Shushtar area the temperature drops below zero, meaning the cold line is entirely negative.

He said: Their studies, ordered by Engineer Musavi, began in 1363 [21 March 1984 - 20 March 1987], and now, in our view the implementation of the plan has been delayed two years. Do not think that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, whether it be that of Mr Musavi or that of Mr Hashemi, the Economic Council, the Economic Affairs and Finance Commission, the Agriculture Commission, the brothers of the Energy Commission and the Plan and Budget Commission itself, are any less concerned about the condition of the country than you and I. We do not want to throw away the nation's dollars and foreign exchange. We have 84,000 hectares of grade four, five, and six land. As you may know, cultivation is possible for lands up to grade three. We designated grade four, five, and six lands as non-arable except where they can be reconstituted. We

wash the soil. It is true that we wash small parcels of soil and the brothers have observed that a dry place becomes muddy and the soil is number seven because of the ooze. We want to do this work when the Karun river spills more than 1,500 cubic meters of water per second into the Persian Gulf, not in the summer when it carries only 250 cubic meters. Our washing of the soil is in the winter, during the Khuzestan floods, and this will wash the salt of the Khuzestan soil into the Persian Gulf. They said that Mr Emam Musavi is opposed to this. Let him come here himself, dear brothers, Mr Emam Musavi is opposed to the Karun management, and this is natural. It is possible that we may want someone and they are not willing, or he may want to come and we don't want him. Let him come here himself and he can state whether he is in favor or opposed to the project. Now, although Karun has been bombed so much, it has continued to function and 14,000 people are working there. At Karun, where 20,000 hectares are being cultivated, 14,000 people are now making a living. Which of your industries employs 14,000 people?

Continuing, the minister of agriculture noted: Mr Ghaffari expressed views on subjects where the government first announced its view and Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani wrote at the bottom of a letter that I gave to him myself directing Mr Zanganeh to defend him, but since there was also a technical issue I asked him to let me defend it. Since last year we have invited Mr Bahma'i, who has protested the issue of sugar cane, saying to him, dear brother, if you have a technical problem, come and see us, on 8/22 [13 November] or any day you consider suitable, just let us know in advance that you are coming. The latest letter of invitation is dated 8/18/1368 [9 November 1989], just about 37 or 38 days ago, and we also did this 48 and eight days earlier. He said he had a headache and did not come, so what did I do wrong? A deputy who did not want to come and listen to the technical explanations is now raising a series of issues that are problematic in his own view, and they may even be logical, but any problem can be solved. He did not come. Mr Ghaffari discussed the water for the project, the minister of energy is also here. Of course you know that whenever any project is to begin the first thing they want to do is determine if the water, climate, and land are suitable for the project, and whether they exist in sufficient amounts or not. It was the year 1363 [21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985] when the first record of proceedings was signed by Dr Ghaffuri-Fard on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture when Dr Zali was minister. The first record of proceedings exists, and it says that there is water. There is a similar record of proceedings from the time of Dr Banki. Mr Zanganeh's point was that I cannot guarantee the availability of water unless the dams are built on the Karun river and the Karkheh alongside it. Fortunately, the dams on the Karun and the Karkheh have been installed, and they will be put into operation along with the project.

The government representative discussed the project itself. He said: Today we ourselves produce 70 percent of our nation's food, and import 30 percent, and at the same time 2.2 million people are added to our society every year. For sugar alone, if we add the needs of 2.2 million people per year, we will have to import or produce an additional 1,000 tons per year. The nation's maximum sugar production capacity is 750,000 tons per year, while our annual consumption is 1.2 million tons, yet on the other hand we cannot reach the maximum production level. This year we imported 600,000 tons, and the gentlemen say it is not enough. I also recently said in my interview that you must also look at world political issues. After 1992, meaning two years from now, the Western European nations will stop food subsidies, meaning the Western European nations will stop paying that $220 billion they are now paying for agriculture.

Mr Kalantari added: With all the blessings God has given us, we want to produce. The project is for that purpose, and there are already projects. I am not saying that the timetable from the time of Mr Musavi was better. The work for that was done by Dr Zali and our other brothers. For a year and two or three months we have been trying to get this project implemented. On the one hand you say to us and you pressure us that we must become self-sufficient. The road to self-sufficiency is for us to make use of the land that we have. From the standpoint of foreign exchange this is the most economical project that has been approved today in this Note 29. Its cost is $1.5 billion, its sugar production at today's prices is $250 million. Not eight years from now but today, starting next year its paper production can be from $300 to $700 million, its meat production is $160 million, at today's prices its annual neoprene production is $750 million. If we deduct ten percent to amortize the loan, that leaves $600 million, deduct another $80 million for current administrative costs, that leaves $520 million dollars we will save in foreign exchange every year, meaning that in three years under expected conditions all the costs of the project will be repaid, and we think this may be the best project the Majles could approve.

This proposal was approved by vote of a large majority.

Continuation of the Proceedings

In continued consideration of the first five-year plan bill for the economic, social, and cultural expansion of the Islamic Republic of Iran, notes 30, 31, and 32 of this bill were considered.

Note 30 - A - For the purpose of performing the duties detailed below, a council called the Supreme Consumption Pattern Study and Designation Council shall be created.

1 - The study and designation of patterns of consumption will be done in accordance with the policies stipulated in this plan.

2 - Continued supervision of the proper implementation of the pattern of consumption enacted.

3 - Continued study and inspection of the achievements of the pattern of consumption enacted and the adoption of suitable measures for its proper implementation, as well as codifying the required proposals for amendments and improvements made for approval by the proper authorities.

B - The members of the supreme council mentioned in Paragraph A will be: 1 - The president of the republic (or the first deputy of the president) as the council's president. 2 - The minister of commerce. 3 - The minister of economic affairs and finance. 4 - The minister of culture and Islamic guidance. 5 - The minister of industries. 6 - The chief of the Plan and Budget Organization. 7 - The chief of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Organization. 8 - The proper minister according to the case and as designated and invited by the chief of the council. 9 - Two Majles deputies as observers, elected by the Majles.

J - The council secretariat and its permanent staff will be established by the president of the republic. Membership of the Working Committee will be composed of full-time representatives chosen by the ministries with permanent council membership and a representative of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Organization

A proposal to delete this note was given by deputies Haerizadeh, Saleh-Abadi, Kheirkhah, 'Abbasi, and Shafe'i, and after remarks by the representatives opposing and favoring the note and comments by the commission expert and the government's representative, this proposal was put to a vote and rejected.

After the introduction of Note 31 of the five-year plan bill, Mr Jahangiri proposed a substitute for Note 31, and after talks by the substitute's supporters and opponents and comments by the government's representative, the proposal was approved, and Note 31 was amended to read as follows:

Note 31 - In the implementation of Principle 147 of the Constitution and to increase the capacity of air freight and air transportation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the government must authorize the needed number of freight and passenger aircraft for the Air Force, after consulting with the leadership of all the armed forces.

All funds obtained from these contracts will be deposited in the national general income account and the equivalent amount will be treated as an allocation and paid to the Air Force by the treasury out of credit provided in each year's budget law.

Proposed executive guidelines for this note will be prepared by the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Roads and Transport, the General Armed Forces Staff, and the Plan and Budget Organization, and then approved by the Council of Ministers.

Discussion of Note 32 was deferred to the next Majles session after the presentation of the proposal by Mr Behzadian and its rejection.

The Letter from 136 deputies to His Holiness Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni

At the conclusion of yesterday afternoon's public Majles session, a letter signed by 136 deputies addressed to Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni was read. The text of the letter is printed below:

In the name of the Almighty

Your Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, may your life be long.

Remembering His Holiness the Imam, and the one responsible for preserving and publishing the works of His Holiness the Imam (May His Grave Be Sanctified).

With Greetings and Salutations,

History has paid homage to the greatness and the firmness of word and thought of the great leader of the Islamic Republic His Holiness Emam Khomeyni (May His Grave Be Sanctified), and the exalted and splendid foundation of the Islamic revolution is built on every word and sentence spoken by that dear great one. The creative role of his forceful and penetrating words in the events of the past decade in the region and in the world is hidden from no one, and the effects of every peak in that divine message in advancing the humane and Islamic goals of today's society and future generations is clear and apparent to everyone. For the noble nation of Iran and its deputies, he was the embodiment of these momentous criteria, and their careful and exacting preservation is seen as one of our national and revolutionary treasures.

Deviation or deletion in quoting that great one's words, if done for political purposes and at special intervals of time, it is absolutely unjustifiable and deserves serious prosecution.

The newspaper RESALAT, which several times during the life of the late great leader committed scandalous errors and violations and was singled out by that great one, now after the passing of His Holiness the Imam, (May the Peace of God Be upon Him), has also committed violations in several instances, for example:

1 - The Imam of the Nation (May God Have Mercy on Him) in a message on 9/2/1367 [23 November 1988] on the occasion of Mobilization of the Oppressed Week said:

If a nation is following the line of Mohammadan Islam and opposes imperialism, the worship of money, fossilization, and the false display of sacred values, every one of its citizens must be mobilized.

Unfortunately, on page one of RESALAT number 1123 dated 9/4/1368 [25 November 1989] the terms "fossilization and the false display of sacred values" were deleted from the Imam's remarks.

2 - In RESALAT 1138 dated 9/21/1368 [12 December 1989] at the height of the election campaign, the paper caused surprise and astonishment by printing a distorted quotation from the Imam, and despite the newspaper's subsequent explanation, something of the undesired effects of that was left in the wounded hearts of the followers of the line of the Imam (May the Peace of God Be upon Him). The original wording of the sentence quoted from His Holiness the Imam's political and divine will is as follows:

"...I charge the respected clergy, and especially the great sources of emulation, not to withdraw from the affairs of society, especially such things as the election of the president and the Majles deputies."

It was butchered and altered as follows:

"I charge the Militant Clerics Association [Jame'eh Rowhaniyat-e Mobarez] not to withdraw from the affairs of society, especially such things as the election of the president and the Majles deputies."

Despite this, in order quickly to prevent these measures and prevent other illegal practices, we issue a warning, and we hope the judicial authorities will deal with this as necessary, so that henceforth the sacred values of the Islamic revolution will remain unspoiled by any kind of deviation.

1 - Mr Hashemian 2 - Rasul Montajan-Nia 3 - Seyyed Hadi Khameneh'i 4 -Asadollah Bayat 5 - Mozafari-Nezhad 6 - Duzduzani 7 - Fakhroldin Hejazi 8 - Qazizadeh Hashemi 9 - Mohammad Salamati 10 - Seyyed Hosein Musavi Tabrizi 11 - 'Esa Vela'i 12 - Ashrafi Esfahani 13 - Ashaq Jahangiri 14 -'Ali Mohaqar 15 - Mohammad Ebrahim Asgharzadeh 16 - Mirza Abutalebi 17 -Morteza Alviri 18 - Sahmi Hesari 19 - Mohammad Baqer-Zakeri 20 - Najafi Sani 21 - Behzadian 22 - Seiqali 23 - Suri 24 - Rashidian 25 - Hazrati 26 - Katirai 27 - Marvvaji 28 - Mokhtari 29 - Shafi'i 30 - Moezi 31 -Sadaqiani 32 - Ha'erizadeh 33 - Salehabadi 34 - Rah- Chamani 35 - Khak 36 - Qalbizadeh 37 - 'Ali Mohammad Ahmadi 38 - Rostami 39 Mohammad Qomi 40 - Taherizadeh 41 - Hamtai 42 - Dabihollah Safai 43 Rahmati 44 - Asghar Nowruzi 45 - Khanom-e Sadiqi (Rajai) 46 - Baqeri Nezhadian-Fard 47 -Hasan Bigi 48 - Musavi, Mamasani deputy 49 - Vaqefi 50 - Davudi Shamsi 51 - Hashemi 52 - Mirvalad 53 - Forutan 54 - Asadollah 'Abodi 55 -Ja'fari Esfahani 56 - Dabestani 57 - Bahma'i 58 - Pudineh 59 -Nowruzzadeh 60 - Aqa'i-Fasa 61 - Dr Eslami 62 - Hoseynzadeh 63 - Mohammad Hoseyn Jahangiri 64 - Moezinzadeh 65 - Ghaffari 66 - Taj-Gardun 67 -Gholamreza Heydari 68 - Rasti-Lari 69 - Malek-Asa 70 - Khanom-e Hadidchi (Dabbagh) 71 - Khanom-e Dastgheib 72 - Forutan 73 - Gharibani 74 -Astaneh 75 - Ahmad Rahbari 76 - Akbarzadeh 77 - 'Abdol'alizadeh 78 -Hedayatollah Aqa'i 79 - Taslimi 80 - Majid Ansari 81 - Abutaleb Hoseyni 82 - 'Azizi 83 - 'Abdollah Pur-Hoseyni 84 - Nurbakht 85 - Me'mari 86 -Jasem Jaderi 87 - Sobhanollahi 88 - Jalali 89 - Partovi 90 -Hoseyni-Barzanchi 91 - Ahmad Taha 92 - Najaf Qoli Habibi 93 - Nader Kavvusi 94 - Ra'isi 95 - Towhidi 96 - Bayalak 97 - Mahmud Robati 98 -Fazel Mosbat Hamadani 99 - Khalkhali 100 - Sadiqi 101 - Mohammadian 102 - Seyyed Hoseyni 103 - Nateli 104 - Rezazehi 105 - Hashemi-Zehi 106 -Dadgar 107 - Mollazehi 108 - Rowhani-Nia 109 - Saduqi 110 - Qoreyshi 111 - Zulfeqar 112 - Nikruz 113 - Seyyed Mohammad Razavi-Yazdi 114 - Nabavi 115 - Rahim-Nezhad 116 - Qasemi Varzeqan 117 - Ziafat 118 - Nurollah 'Abedi 119 - Moqtada'i 120 - Hemati 121 - Seyyed 'Alameh Hoseyni 122 -Fellah 123 - Alhasani 124 - Nazari-Pur 125 - Kabiri 126 - Kia'i-Nezhad 127 - Seyyed Mohammad Ha'eri 128 - Rahmani 129 - Taha'i 130 - 'Abdollah Nowruzi 131 - Sharifzadeh 132 - Khananshu 133 - Nariman 134 - Hojjaji 135 - Baghumian 136 - Musavi-Nanehkaran

Pakistan

Fresh Indian Troops Moved Up to Line of Control

BK0102110390 Lahore THE NATION in English 1 Feb 90 pp 1, 12

[By Ahmed Rashid]

[Excerpts] Islamabad—The Indian Army has moved in fresh troops to its main bases along the Line of Control between Azad Kashmir and Held Kashmir. Despite the acute political tension between India and Pakistan, neither Army has yet made any serious move against the other.

Senior Pakistani Army officers told THE NATION on the border that India has brought up more troops to their main bases, just behind the UN-monitored Control Line between Held Kashmir and Azad Kashmir. The Indian Army Division at Orusa, 15 miles from the border, was reinforced with a fresh brigade last week and Indian troops are on a high state of alert. More Indian Army units have arrived to reinforce vital front line bases along the entire Control Line. Orusa lies on the 104-mile long main road between Muzaffarabad, the capital of Azad Kashmir, and Srinagar, the capital of Held Kashmir. The road would be a major battlefield if hostilities were to break out in Kashmir.

The Pakistani Army has increased patrolling and raised its state of alert along the border, but so far it has not cancelled soldiers leave or inducted fresh troops into the area. In Army camps along the 36 miles from Muzaffarabad to Chakothi, on the border, military traffic was light and troops appeared relaxed and extremely confident. Soldiers have been feeding and grooming the thousands of mules that are needed for transportation in the rugged terrain. Officers and soldiers said they were carrying out their normal daily routines. [passage omitted]

Muzaffarabad experienced its first bomb blast ever on Tuesday [30 January] when a bomb exploded under a fruit stall in the bazaar. [passage omitted]

Senior police officers said they held agents of RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] India's intelligence agency, responsible. They said RAW had recently established two new camps in Mandar and Rajori in Held Kashmir to train saboteurs, who are infiltrated into Azad Kashmir. The police said these camps had been set up before the recent trouble in Kashmir and some saboteurs arrive on visas ostensibly to visit relatives in Azad Kashmir. The 4,000 strong police force in Azad Kashmir has now tightened security on key bridges and installations.

The political tension has so far not been translated into military tension between the two countries. There is still a relaxed feeling in military units in Azad Kashmir but everywhere the Kashmiris talk of nothing except, "it is now or never for the liberation of Kashmir."

Indian Refugees Arrive in Azad Kashmir

BK0102044590 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 1 Feb 90

[From "Newsreel" program]

[Text] A group of what are believed to be some of the first refugees fleeing the security crackdown in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir have recently crossed into Pakistan. Nearly 40 men, women, and children are now receiving assistance from Pakistani officials and local residents. Lyce Doucet has just returned from the town of Bagh, about 20 miles from the cease-fire line, where some of the refugees are being sheltered.

[Begin Doucet recording] Nine Kashmiri men sat listlessly on blankets in a small religious school. They said they had come from the village of (Azad Baraw), which lies less than a mile from the cease-fire line dividing Indian and Pakistani Kashmir. They recounted how each had traveled by night, in most cases with a wife and children, through the thick forests, reaching a Pakistani border post after 2 days. They had been kept there for 5 days for questioning, they said, and partly because heavy snow was blocking the route. Then, leaving their wives and children in the temporary custody of Pakistani authorities, they came to the town of Bagh, about 20 miles away, to seek shelter and employment.

When asked why they had left (Azad Baraw), the men told of new house searches by Indian security forces. According to their accounts, Indian forces had entered their homes and took them to police or military posts for questioning. Some said they were beaten with wooden sticks and were accused of helping Pakistan to send arms to Kashmiri fighters—charges they denied.

The district commissioner, Sardar Nayim Shiraz, said the refugees had also been questioned by different security forces here and were still being kept under surveillance, in case they were not genuine refugees—a remark which underscores the deep suspicion on both sides of the border. Sardar Shiraz said they were expecting more refugees to come. He said the authorities here were not encouraging them, but those who had arrived would be given temporary assistance to help them adjust.

In the town efforts were underway to raise money and collect food for the refugees. Men with megaphones had erected a stand in the center of the town. Some university students also staged a procession through the streets, shouting slogans denouncing India's control of Kashmir and calling for freedom. They demanded the implementation of United Nations resolutions which call for a plebiscite. Some said they would choose a cession to Pakistan, others full independence.

The head of the local bar association, (Sardar Zahoor Ahmad), said if there was no solution, the Kashmiris would rise up and pull down the cease-fire line just like the Berlin wall, and neither the Indians nor the Pakistanis would be able to stop them. He commended Pakistan's foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, for his speech last night in which he expressed support for the Kashmiri people. When it was pointed out that Mr Khan had stressed the need for a political solution, Mr (Ahmad) said Kashmiris were tired of words they had heard for the last 42 years. (Sardar Ahmad)'s militancy is characteristic of a growing spirit on the Pakistani side, although it is still not clear if it will be translated into concrete action. [end recording]

Parties Condemn Indian Action in Kashmir

BK3101133090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Representatives of different parties held a meeting in Lahore today to discuss the Kashmir issue. Later, addressing a news conference on behalf of the participants, the PDP [Pakistan Democratic Party] chief, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, said there is a complete national consensus on the right of self-determination for the Kashmiris which is a recognized international principle. He said India has gone back on its commitment to hold a plebiscite in Kashmir. The present struggle of the Kashmiri people has begun from inside occupied Kashmir without any outside help. It is part of the current (?wave) of independence in several areas throughout the world including Eastern Europe.

A students rally was held in Lahore today to express solidarity with freedom fighters in Indian-held Kashmir.

Minister Meets Party Chief on 'Occupied' Kashmir

BK0102053390 Islamabad Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The federal minister for water and electricity, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, has met with the leader of the Pakistan Democratic Party, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, in Lahore and exchanged views with him on various issues concerning the struggle in Indian-occupied Kashmir. The meeting of the two leaders is part

of the federal government's policy to get a consensus of all the democratic forces in the country on national issues.

Protest Rallies Continue in Azad Jammu, Kashmir

BK0102121290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] In Azad Jammu and Kashmir, protest rallies are continuing against the killing and arrest of Kashmiri Muslims by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir.

In Muzaffarabad, lawyers took out a protest procession. They expressed full solidarity with their Kashmiri brethren and urged the United Nations to take appropriate measures for implementation of its resolutions for holding a free and fair plebiscite.

The acting Azad Jammu and Kashmir president, Sardar Mohammad Ayub Khan, has welcomed the policy statement of the Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, on Kashmir issue. Speaking in Muzaffarabad today, he described the statement as the source of strength for the Kashmiri people who have been struggling for their basic right of self-determination for 42 years.

Commentary Urges World Pressure on India

BK2801074490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Commentary by Umar Latif]

[Text] The present popular uprising by the people of occupied Kashmir bears a testimony to their strong resolve of seeking self-determination under the aegis of the United Nations, as agreed by India and Pakistan.

Pakistan has steadfastly advocated the early holding of a plebiscite in Kashmir so as to allow the people of Kashmir the right to decide their fate. It was a principle by implementation of which Pakistan came into being. It is India which has been against holding a plebiscite, but this has not helped to remove tensions in the subcontinent. As long as Kashmir issue remains unresolved on equitable and judicious [words indistinct] India would remain in turmoil as Kashmiri people would never accept their subjugation. No people in the world have accepted injustice and tyranny to persist.

In recent upsurge for freedom, Indian forces have killed scores of youths and inflicted injuries to thousands. All these are inhuman acts. Strong will for winning freedom can never be crushed by cruel forms of killing. This India should know by now. In order to hide from the world public notice what was happening at present in Kashmir, Indian authorities have clamped curfew with orders to soldiers to shoot at sight. Curfew has been imposed almost over the entire territory of occupied Kashmir. This shows the extent and scale of popular opposition against Indian occupation of Kashmir. Foreign journalists have been asked to leave Jammu and Kashmir; (?local) journalists have been ordered not to send reports. Their telephones have been disconnected. Media has been stopped from reporting of events in Kashmir.

The world at large should take notice of injustice being perpetrated on the people of Kashmir. The United States has given a wise counsel to solve Kashmir problem peacefully. Unfortunately, India has been wedded to hegemony and has been brutal with all its neighbors in dictating terms. Besides Kashmir, India has been trampling [words indistinct] by its military intervention in Sri Lanka. It created trouble for Nepal in foreign trade for this landlocked country. Indian people themselves have been (?horrified). By preaching peace and practicing hegemony, India cannot convince the world forever. Contradictions so flagrant and so violent as India has been perpetrating—it has lost the faith in the comity of the world.

For Kashmir, India and Pakistan have had to go to two wars. That had been a great loss in men and material to the two developing countries, which they cannot afford. Without holding a plebiscite, Kashmir would continue to loom a danger case for the two countries. By brutality, rejection for India in Kashmir is bound to increase. Generations has been under the Indian occupation of Kashmir, but the spirit of freedom would never diminish. In fact, the recent uprising shows that urge of freedom has gathered a great momentum, and the process is bound to fortify.

Occupied Kashmir has over 73 percent of Muslim population. How can such a majority be forced to subjugation? It is next to impossible. Hence, honorable and peaceful solution of Kashmir must be sought and preferred by India and Pakistan. It remains in compliance with the commitments made by them at the United Nations—which is holding of a plebiscite in Kashmir. The world must realize its duty toward the people of Kashmir and force India to hold plebiscite and seek a just, acceptable, and peaceful solution of Kashmir issue.

2 Killed, 16 Injured in Hyderabad, Latifabad

BK3101131890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] There are reports of more violence from different areas of Hyderabad and Latifabad today. Hospital sources said 2 persons were killed and 16 injured, 6 of them seriously. The injured have been admitted in Bhitai Hospital, Latifabad, and Civil Hospital, Hyderabad.

The law enforcing agencies are patrolling in the area. Curfew restrictions have been extended to Latifabad A and B sections, Hussainabad, and Bhitainagar police station areas with immediate effect.